



FLORIDA STATE
UNIVERSITY

Discoverability in the age of Google: Exploring efforts to customize web-scale discovery tools to support music information seeking within academic music libraries

Vivian Buchanan (she/her)
SEMLA annual conference
10/21/2022



Agenda

Introduction

Method:
Interviews

Discussion

Research
questions

Findings





Why is searching for music
so challenging?



Challenges in musical description

“Work” vs. manifestations

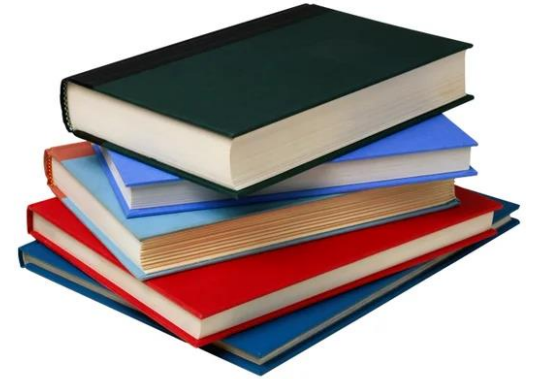
- Multiple resource types
- Various editions, formats, arrangements, transcriptions, etc.

Musical naming conventions

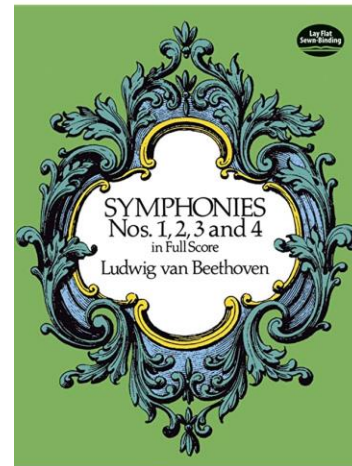
- Generic titles
- Nickname titles
- Foreign language titles & translations

Musical compilations

- Anthologies
- Compilation recordings



ExLibris Primo





RDA is launched

2010

2014

LC and MLA
launch LCMPT

570 musical terms
are added to
LCGFT

2015





A new era in resource discovery?



Research Questions

1. What challenges have music librarians witnessed their patrons experiencing when using web-scale discovery tools to search for musical resources?
2. What characteristics of web-scale discovery tools may serve as barriers to music information seeking?
3. What customizations have music librarians made to their institutions' web-scale discovery tool or ILS to support music information seeking?
4. What additional work is needed to optimize web-scale discovery tools to support music information seeking within academic music libraries?



Methods

- 6 semi-structured interviews
 - April – June, 2022
- Snowball sampling
- Informal quota sampling
 - Primo, Ebsco Discovery Service, Blacklight, Sierra



FLORIDA STATE
UNIVERSITY

1. What challenges have music librarians witnessed their patrons experiencing when using web-scale discovery tools to search for musical resources?



Patron's struggles

- Novice users expecting “Google-like” experience
 - Difficulty reading bib records
- Difficulty distinguishing resource types
- Information overload
- Spelling
 - Foreign-language titles
 - Composers' names
- Query formation



FLORIDA STATE
UNIVERSITY

2. What characteristics of web-scale discovery tools may serve as barriers to music information seeking?



Discovery tools – barriers to music searching

- Challenges in combining records from disparate sources
 - Messy metadata
 - Muddled relevancy rankings
- Underutilization of authority records
- Improper indexing and display of fields



FLORIDA STATE
UNIVERSITY

3. What customizations have music librarians made to their institutions' web-scale discovery tool or ILS to support music information seeking?



Bento Box Display

- Articles are separated from ILS content (scores, recordings, books, streaming audio, local repositories)
- Allows for greater customization within ILS

Search results for "brahms sonata"

brahms sonata [Search](#)

OneSearch

[A study on right hand techniques in cello sonatas of Johannes Brahms](#)
Author: Kocali, Mutlu Varlik; Iplik, Ayye Derya
Source: Sınırsız Eğitim ve Araştırma Dergisi
Database: Idealonline
Date: 2022-03-01

[SINIGAGLIA: Piano Pieces: BRAHMS: Sonata 1](#)
Source: American Record Guide
Database: Gale Academic OneFile
Date: 2022-09-01

[The Recorded Brahms Corpus \(RBC\): A Dataset of Performative Parameters in Recordings of Brahms's...](#)
Author: Ana Llorens
Source: Empirical Musicology Review
Database: Directory of Open Access Journals
Date: 2023-12-01

[View More](#)

CATALOG

[Brahms's sonata structures and the principle of developing variation](#)
Author: Frisch, Walter, 1951-
Format: Book
Published: 1981

[Brahms's sonata structures and the principle of developing variation](#)
Author: Frisch, Walter, 1951-
Format: Microfilm, Book
Published: 1981

[Brahms's violin sonata in G major, op. 78 as the summation of the Regenlied tetralogy](#)
Author: Paik, Susan
Format: E-Book
Published: 2016

[View More](#)

DATABASE TITLES

No results found for your search in Database Titles. [Search Database Titles](#)

RESEARCH GUIDES

[Preferred Titles in Music](#)

LIBRARIES' WEBSITE

No results found for your search in Libraries Website. [Ask a librarian for help](#)

LIBRARIES AND STAFF

No results found for your search in Libraries



FLORIDA STATE
UNIVERSITY

Music-specific facets



Medium of Performance

- Two institutions had a dedicated “Instrument” facet
- Pulled from MARC 382, 048, or subject headings

Instrument	▼
Keyboard--Piano	575
Piano	167
Strings, bowed--Violin	151
Strings, bowed--Violoncello	106
Larger ensemble--Full orchestra	65
Violin	65
Strings, bowed--Viola	63
Woodwinds--Clarinet	50
Cello	49
Clarinet	30
more »	

Music: Medium of Performance Statement

orchestra (364)
 piano; orchestra (188)
 violin; orchestra (144)
 piano (87)
 violin; cello; orchestra (52)
 violin; piano (36)
 piano (2) (21)
 mixed chorus; orchestra (17)
 violin (15)
 cello; piano (14)
 organ (14)
 violin; cello; piano (13)
 cello; orchestra (13)
 violin (2); viola; cello (10)
 violin; string orchestra (10)
 soprano voice; baritone voice; (9)
 mixed chorus; orchestra
 mixed chorus (9)
 soprano voice; orchestra (9)
 instrumental ensemble (9)
 alto voice; men's chorus; (7)
 orchestra



Genre facet

- Pulled from MARC 655 (LCGFT) and 650
- Definition of “genre” differs between developers and musicians

Genre	
Sonatas	343
Excerpts	275
Chamber music	149
Arrangements (Music)	114
Art music	111
Scores	110
Sound recordings	108
Live sound recordings	88
Operas	85
Parts (Music)	85
more	»



Score format facet

Scores	▼
Score	51
Other	20
Miniature score	18
Accompaniment reduced for keyboard	10
Multiple score formats	3
Condensed score	2
Performer-conductor part	1

- Created using combination of:
 - Record type
 - Cataloging rules (040 \$e)
 - FMus fixed field



Relationship Designators

Composer [^](#)

Brahms, Johannes (1,425)

Brahms, Johannes, 1833- 1897 (1,043)

Beethoven, Ludwig van (505)

Show More

Performer [^](#)

London Symphony Orchestra (89)

Berliner Philharmoniker (86)

Wiener Philharmoniker (81)

Show More

Director [^](#)

Simonnet, Olivier (14)

Petri, Hans (5)

Coles, Bob (4)

Show More



Name/title browsing

LIBRARY CATALOG [Sign in](#) | [Selected Items \(0\)](#) | [Search History](#) | [My Account](#)

barber, samuel Author (A-Z) Sorted By Name [ADVANCED SEARCH](#)

[Start over](#)

Browse "barber, samuel" in author headings

[Previous](#) | [Next](#)

Titles	Headings	Type
702	Barber, Samuel → See Barber, Sam (5)	Personal Name
1	Barber, Samuel, 1814-1864 Author info »	Personal Name
1	Barber, Samuel, 1848-1918	Personal Name
1	Barber, Samuel, 1910-	Personal Name
416	Barber, Samuel, 1910-1981 Author info »	Personal Name
185	Barber, Samuel Composer	Personal Name

Barber, Samuel, 1910-1981



Image: [Wikidata](#)

Samuel Osmond Barber II (March 9, 1910 – January 23, 1981) was an American composer, pianist, conductor, baritone, and music educator, and one of the most celebrated composers of the 20th century. The music critic Donal Henahan stated, "Probably no other American composer has ever enjoyed such early, such persistent and such long-lasting acclaim." Principally influenced by nine years of composition studies with Rosario Scalero at the Curtis Institute and more than twenty-five years of study with his uncle, the composer Sidney Homer, Barber's music usually eschewed the experimental trends of musical modernism in favor of utilizing traditional 19th-century harmonic language and formal structure that embraced lyricism and emotional expression. However, elements of modernism were adopted by Ba [\(From DBpedia\)](#).

Occupation: Composer
 Place of Birth: West Chester (Pa.)
 Place of Death: New York (N.Y.)
 Citizenship: United States of America*
 Educated at: West Chester Henderson High School, Curtis Institute of Music*

* [From Wikidata](#)

Library Holdings

Total Works By: [416 Titles](#)
 Total Works About: [17 Titles](#)

- [Books \(17\)](#)
- [Microforms \(2\)](#)
- [Musical Recordings \(310\)](#)
- [Musical Scores \(98\)](#)
- [Theses \(2\)](#)
- [Videos \(4\)](#)

Browse related items by call number:
[ML410.B23](#)

Reference Information

Heading Type: Personal Name

Alternate Form(s): [Barber, S. O. \(Samuel Osborne\), 1910-1981](#)
[Barber, Sam, 1910-1981](#)
[Barber, Samuel Osborne, II, 1910-1981](#)
[Barbūr, Samuel, 1910-1981](#)



Supplementing record contents notes

- Enhancing album records with data from Discogs database

Viola sonatas

Uniform title:	Sonatas, clarinet, piano, op. 120
Author, etc.:	Brahms, Johannes, 1833-1897. Author info »
Format:	🎵 Musical Recording
Language:	English.
Published:	US : Nonesuch, 1982.
Publisher number:	D 79031
Subject:	Sonatas (Viola and piano)
Description:	1 sound disc : 33 1/3 rpm, stereo. ; 12 in.
Contributors:	Tree, Michael, 1934-2018, performer Goode, Richard, performer
Other contributors:	Ara Guzelimian: A&R. Ron Coro: Art Direction, Design. John Barr (2): Design. Vlado Meller: Mastered By. Richard Mantel: Photography By. Richard Goode: Piano. Max Wilcox: Producer, Engineer. Michael Tree: Viola.
Table of contents:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No. 1 in F minor (22:29) • No. 2 in E flat (21:30)
Notes:	Originally for clarinet and piano. Digital recording. Program notes by Nicholas Temperley on container. Michael Tree, viola ; Richard Goode, piano. Recorded June 22-23, 1981, at the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters, New York City.
Additional:	Side 1 running time 22:29 Side 2 running time 21:30



Some information for this item comes from the [Discogs database](#).
[Remove the Discogs highlighting.](#)



Experience customizing

- Advocating for music's specific needs
- Cross-sectional collaboration
 - System developers
 - Reference services
- Need for education on system settings



FLORIDA STATE
UNIVERSITY

4. What additional work is needed to optimize web-scale discovery tools to support music information seeking within academic music libraries?



Work still to be done

- Adding LCGFT and LCMPT to legacy records
- Discovery tool indexing
 - Appropriate indexing and display of MARC fields
 - Authority files
 - LCGFT / LCMPT beyond keyword indexing



Implications

Record enhancement

Education on system configuration

Library instruction

Continued progress sharing



- “We won’t see real, permanent change until a critical mass of all music libraries start to move into this new era and bring up new technologies. We can learn from each other, but it’s going to be incremental for a long time until we can all move on as a large community.”



Thank you!