Frequently Asked Questions: Music Library

The Music Library Website is designed as a portal, links to all of the Music Databases are proxied. You should always start there when researching music.

http://uwm.edu/libraries/music/

Is there a list of CD's online?
All of the CDs are cataloged in the Library Catalog, but drilling down to find them is often problematic, so we have created browsing lists for popular music genres. To find this from the music library homepage, look in the left column for the link to the CD Browsing lists.

http://guides.library.uwm.edu/browsinglists

Where are the scores for musicals and operas?
Full score for complete musicals and operas are located in the M1500
Piano and vocal scores for the full musical / opera are in the M1503
Excerpts from musicals (piano and vocal) are in the M1507 and M1508
Vocal Anthologies (compilations from various musicals and operas) are in the M1507

A helpful tool for finding recordings &/or scores musicals and operas is our CD Browsing list

Are there books on how to learn to play the guitar?
There are some basic guitar pedagogy and technique books in the MT580s, but we do not have a lot of them. This is one of those areas where, frankly, you might be better off going to a local music or book store & buying an inexpensive one so that you can feel free to mark in it & not worry about due dates.

Where and what are the FOL(s)?
FOL stands for Folio and it means an item is oversized and it won’t fit on the shelving for regular music stack material. FOL materials are located on the wall beside room E281.

What is the maximum amount of fees before you can no longer check out items?
The maximum dollar amount is a high enough number that you never want to find out. Keep track of your fines by checking your personal record in the catalog. Renew your materials online when you get the email notice that the item is due in a few days, return it if it not renewable, and CALL the Music Library if you have a problem with renewing. We will work with you.

The graduate music comps are coming up… help?
In the left column on the Music Library website is a link to our "Research Guide" which has a tab for materials in general research areas. The pages for Musicology & Music Theory have lists of books and subject headings that will lead to books in the collection that will help your preparation. Many of the books are classed in the MT6s, so it might be easier to browse for books on theory and music history survey books that fit your learning style.

Can all materials be checked out here, including non-Music and non-Curriculum materials?
Yes. All materials from the stacks can be check out at the Music/Curriculum circulation desk. Likewise, books and scores from our shelves can be checked out at the Main Circulation desk if we are closed, or busy with another patron.

NOTE: DVDs must be checked out in the Media & Reserve Library because none of the other circulation desks have the equipment needed to remove the plastic cases that they are shelved in. CDs & LPs can be 'requested' to be picked up at Main Circulation through the catalog, but otherwise must be checked out at the Music Desk.

How many CD’s are allowed to be check out?
While there is no set limit enforced by the library, the Music Library encourages keeping it to five or six at a time to limit the patron's liability if something should happen; damage, loss of materials through theft of a backpack or car can result in a large fines for the patron. The list of fines/fees for the Music Library materials are listed here http://uwm.edu/libraries/music/music-library-fines-fees/
How long can I check out different materials? (e.g. CDs, journals, books, M2s)
Loan periods are based on the type of material being checked out, and to whom. The table on the Music Library website that is linked to below outlines the differentiating loan periods.
http://uwm.edu/libraries/music/loan-periods/

Can unbound journals be checked out?
Yes. An unbound journal is considered a periodical in the same way that a bound one would be. In order to check out a periodical a temporary barcode must be assigned to it. For instructions on checking a periodical out consult the music library circulation manual.

Where can I listen to a CD, LP, or Cassette?
Turntables are located in front of the music librarian's office. CD and cassette players are located in the nook behind the circulation area. Headphones may be checked out according to the listening station they are being used for (jacks are different sizes for LP stations vs. a computer or CD/cassette player). There are jack-boxes for check out that allow for multiple listeners to listen together.

Where are Music Reserve materials kept?
Books, scores, & CDs on reserve are kept behind the counter at the Music/Curriculum Desk by faculty name & then in call number order. Please have the call number or title ready when you ask for an item because some faculty members have quite a lot of materials on reserve. NOTE: sometimes a faculty member will say that something is on Reserve, when they mean that it is in the Reference (RMU) collection. We'll help you puzzle that out, but Reference books are never put on reserve since they can not be checked out of the building anyway.

Where are CDs & LPs kept?
All music CDs are kept in the circulation office area and are paged by staff for patrons. LPs are in the Music Work Room, and likewise are paged on demand.

Why are the CDs & LPs not out for browsing like the books and scores are?
The CDs & LPs are shelved, for the most part, using an accession order numbering system that reflects when we acquired it, making them essentially unbrowsable. They are not grouped in any way that would make it possible to easily locate, for example, several recordings of the same piano sonata or symphony. Despite the difficulties with finding music in the catalog, it is still the more efficient way to locate what we have.

Is there a list of past concerts for the UWM music department?
Yes. The music library holds bound copies past programs from 1982 to present in the music stacks. Their title, Programs of concerts and recitals / the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, School of Fine Arts, Department of Music and call number, ML 1 .U54x.

Is it possible to make copies of music for personal educational purposes?
The library does not control copying of materials for individuals. After an item is checked out, it is the responsibility of the patron to use the material according to copyright laws. Information regarding the use of copyrighted material can be found on the music library homepage under the copyright heading, located near the top of the screen. The short answer is that you should not be wholesale copying music from the library to avoid buying music that is commercially available in-print, even for educational purposes.

Can LPs be converted into CDs?
We can transfer selections from LPs to CD (or make MP3s of them) for class-related study and/or presentations only. We cannot generally do an entire LP – the exception might be if what is needed is an entire concerto and it takes up the entire disc, with the first 2 movements on one side and the last on the other.
Is there a handout on JSTOR and other online databases?
At the moment the music library does not have handouts for individual databases. However, there are helpful guides on the UWM library homepage under the section research & course guides, located near the bottom of the UWM library homepage.

How can you limit a Library Catalog search? (e.g. sound recording)
Working from the search box on the Music Library homepage you can enter a word(s) into the search box and then limit your search to LPs, CDs using the Boolean operator AND followed by the phrase "4 ¾" for a CD or "33 1/3 " for an LP (including the quotes). This will retrieve those items in that formats that we physically own. Any subsequent search you, you'll want to make sure that you have changed the dropdown box at the top of the screen from “Everything” to “UWM Books & Media” and then you can use the limiters on the left side to drill down to what you want. Unfortunately, all audio and visual materials – i.e. CDs, LPs, DVDs, etc. – have the same designation as "audiovisual" so you may need to do some browsing through the pages.

I found that you have a piece of music through a list on your website, can I get a copy of it?
If you found it listed on the Sheet Music Collection pages, you can access anything in the public domain – that is anything written prior to 1923 – in our digital collection, or through the digital collections listed on the website. Anything written from 1923- forward is still covered by US copyright and we cannot make a copy of it for you. If you live in the Milwaukee area, you may come in and look at it and make a copy for personal use. If you do not live in the area, please contact your local library – there are many collections similar to ours and there may well be copy near you.

The Digital Sheet Music Collection can be browsed, and music downloaded from, this page http://uwm.edu/lib-collections/sheet-music/
Links to other digital collections can be found on that page as well.

Is this a quiet study space?
Yes and No. The glassed-in area behind the Music Library stacks is a designated quiet study space. While people should not be working in groups there, it is not a silent space because sounds from other sections of the floor may potentially carry into it. The area that is now the Digital Humanities Lab is often quite noisy because they use microphones and have public events—and there is no complete sound barrier. In addition, the areas around the Music and Curriculum stacks are, in fact, group study tables. So while it is usually quieter than other parts of the building, the only really quiet study areas are the Lower Level East Wing by compact shelving. Much of 2-West and 3-West are quiet areas as well. We do ask that conversation should not disturb other patrons, headphones must always be worn when listening to audio, and the volume should be kept low. Please go to the foyers or the Grind to carry on cell phone conversations.

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