

CCL-EAR COMMITTEE REVIEW
Oxford Music Online
February 2015

In February 2015, selected members of the Council of Chief Librarians, Electronic Access to Resources Committee (CCL-EAR) undertook a "hands-on" study of Oxford Music Online. Ratings are based upon the potential value of the product to the California Community Colleges as a whole and not solely on the needs of any specific campus.

RANKINGS:

- #1 --- Not recommended
- #2 --- Recommended with reservations as noted
- #3 --- Recommended
- #4 --- Outstanding offer

The following features were examined and rated on a four point scale (1=Poor; 2=Needs Improvement; 3=Good; 4=Excellent):

- **DATABASE CONTENT/FORMAT:**
Consider functionality, appropriateness of format, database content, adequacy of coverage (retrospective, current), and value to the California Community Colleges as a whole.
- **SEARCH INTERFACE:**
Consider the functionality and ease of use of the interface. Is it intuitive or is an excessive amount of training required? Are any crucial features missing from the search interface?
- **USER SUPPORT SERVICES:**
What types of customer and technical support are available for end users and library administrators?
- **COST:**
If cost is available, does it seem reasonable in terms of comparable products?
- **AVAILABILITY/ACCESSIBILITY OF SERVICE:**
Is access/connection to product reliable and stable? Is response time adequate? Is product accessible to users with disabilities?

OVERALL ASSESSMENT: 3, 3, 3

Oxford Music online is an excellent collection of reference sources on topics related to music. Content is updated on a periodic basis, although completeness of content and parity with edition numbers of the source work is not always clear. The search interface is adequate, and embedded multimedia examples of sheet music is a welcome addition for those able to install the required plug-in. The database is ADA/Section 508 compliant, but could use improvement to streamline navigation for users with screen readers. Overall, we recommend Oxford Music Online for any community college with courses requiring research into music history, instruments or performance.

DATABASE CONTENT/FORMAT: 3, 3, 3

Oxford Music Online is the portal by which subscribers access several Oxford music reference resources, including those formerly packaged in *Grove Music Online*. All content is full-text and is cross-searchable. Contents include the full text of the following sources, "as well as numerous subsequent updates and emendations.":

- *The Oxford Dictionary of Music*, 2nd revised edition (2006)
- *The Oxford Companion to Music* (2011)
- *The New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians*, 2nd edition (2001)
- *The New Grove Dictionary of Opera* (1992)
- *The New Grove Dictionary of Jazz*, 2nd edition (2002)

Note: there is a newer print edition of *The Oxford Dictionary of Music*, the sixth edition, which came out in 2012. According to Oxford University Press, revised entries from the newer edition are incorporated into the online resource, although the noted edition number of the source title does not change. Updated content from a new print edition is not released into Oxford Music Online all at once, but gradually. The vendor noted that the online version may have different images, different cross-references, and stylistic differences, and they recommend purchasing both the print title (or its e-book form) in addition to the content in Oxford Music Online for anyone wishing truly complete coverage for this title.

Also included in *Oxford Music Online* are portions of the following texts. Content from these titles are being added in batches, with plans to "eventually" bring them fully online:

- *The Grove Dictionary of American Music*, 2nd edition (2013)
- *The Grove Dictionary of Musical Instruments*, 2nd edition (2014)

Some articles contain embedded examples to help illustrate concepts and musical styles. These multimedia examples feature staff notation that includes a moving indicator that synchronizes with audio playback. Such examples require download of the Sibelius Scorch browser plugin. According to the download page, this plugin is supported on all major web browsers from Windows XP to Windows 8, and Mac OS 10.7 and later.

Oxford Music Online is updated at least three times per year. Updates include new and revised articles, and corrections and additions to biographies and other content.

SEARCH INTERFACE: 3, 3, 3

Home | About | What's New | Subscriber Services | Contact Us | Help | Logout

Oxford Music Online

ALL CONTENT | BIOGRAPHIES | SUBJECT ENTRIES | TOOLS & RESOURCES

SEARCH

Search Only: Grove Music Online
[Advanced Search](#)

Search results for 'beatles'

Your search for 'search: *beatles*' returned 175 results [Advanced search](#)

Results Per Page: 25

1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | ... | Z Next page »

Thumbnails On

Display results from:
Click on the to refine by category.

- Grove Music Online
- The Oxford Dictionary of Music
- The Oxford Companion to Music


Display results that are:

- Biographies
- Subject Entries
- Images

Beatles (Subject Entry)
Originating in Liverpool, the Beatles evolved from an amateur teenage skiffle group, the Quarry Men, ...
Source: Grove Music Online

Beatles, the (Biography)
...culture and beyond. This article outlines the inspiration taken by the Beatles from American sources, and the group's appearances and reception in ...
Source: Grove Music Online - The Grove Dictionary of American Music, 2nd edition

Beatles, The (Subject Entry)
Vocal and instr. Eng. pop group (guitars and drums) who attained worldwide popularity and critical acclaim during 1960s, chiefly in songs by 2 ...
Source: The Oxford Dictionary of Music



Beatles fans outside the Plaza Hotel, New York, 1964. (Image)
AP Photo
Source: Grove Music Online

Danger Mouse (Biography)
...a capella tracks from Jay-Z's Black Album with music from the Beatles' White Album. This free internet-only release gained notoriety due to ...
Source: Grove Music Online - The Grove Dictionary of American Music, 2nd edition

Yazbek, David (Biography)
...XTC, Spacehog, Tito Puente, the Persuasions, and Queen. Influenced by the Beatles, Steely

About the Index

Oxford Music Online has a clean, modern interface design. The search box is located in the upper right where most users expect it to be. The user has the ability to limit by facets once search results are retrieved. Thumbnail-sized images are included in search results when relevant, clicking on these gives users a full-sized image, which can be copied or saved, though similar images can be found from a Google Images search.

Examples of music are given using musical notation in many articles, when appropriate.

Advanced search options include the ability to search only entry title instead of the default full article text, which brings in many marginally relevant articles. The advanced search also has different search options, accessible through tabs along the top, for All Content, Biographies, Subject Entries and Tools & Resources. There is no spell-check or validation for misspellings of names. A “did you mean” or list of names might be helpful for users who are unsure of the spelling of an artist’s name.

A video guided tour is available for the database, as well as PowerPoint tours for Grove Music Online and the Encyclopedia of Popular Music. A users manual for Grove Music Online is also available.

There is a What’s New section that details new content added to the database. Text of articles is appropriately hyperlinked, neither too much nor too little. Search terms are highlighted in the article text, though this is easily turned off with a button at the top of the page.

The system supports OpenURL and provides downloads of MARC records.

Users can print or email articles and images. The email option only sends links to content, so the user will have to go into the database (and reauthenticate if off-campus) to access the content. Users can save content using the web browser’s save feature.

Citations are available in MLA and Chicago formats. Citation export to reference managers is also supported. Persistent links are included in the citations.

USER SUPPORT: 4, 3, 3

Online help is available on all pages: the main page, the results page and the entry page. Although it is not context sensitive, it includes general information such as logging in, searching, interpreting search results and technical information (browsers, settings and cookies). Additionally, there are training videos and guided tours (in PowerPoint or PDF format) on the Oxford University Press USA Librarians Resource Center website. They are comprehensive and well-written. Oxford University Press also provides on-site and online training as well as online tutorial and user guides to its subscribers for free. Their technical Support is available via email and telephone, Monday through Friday, 9:00 am through 5:00 pm EST.

Oxford University Press alerts subscribers to changes in the database through their RSS feed and mailing list. Librarians can sign up for Oxford University Press mailing list at www.oup.com.online/listserv to get up-to-date information. Librarians can also follow Oxford University Press on Facebook, Twitter, Tumblr and blog to get the latest information on the database. The license agreement is available on the CCLC’s website under Oxford University Press offerings.

COST: 3, 3, 3

The cost is based on FTE. Oxford University Press does not guarantee cost increase caps. However, if a library wants to do a multi-year (2-3 years) subscription, Oxford University Press would consider it on a case by case basis. If a library purchases perpetual access to some of the content, for example, a library purchases *The Grove Dictionary of American Music* (2nd edition) and subscribes to *Grove Music Online*, Oxford University Press will offer some discounts, either on *The Grove Dictionary of American Music* or *Grove Music Online*.

AVAILABILITY/ACCESSIBILITY OF SERVICE: 3, 3, 3

The database was assessed for accessibility using Jaws and tools at <http://www.w3.org/WAI/eval/preliminary.html>

This database is ADA/Section 508 compliant, with reservations. Most images have descriptive text adjacent to them, but many thumbnail versions of images have inappropriate alt text, for example, a thumbnail image of the Beatles has the alt text, "unable to display image." This could be confusing for a user relying on that alt text. It was difficult to navigate to the search box using the Jaws screen reader, and it was not possible to close the pop up about the use of cookies in Jaws.

Access to this database is controlled via IP address ranges for on-campus users, for remote authentication subscribers can use EZproxy, usernames and passwords, Shibboleth, referrer URLs, or library card numbers.

Usage reports for Oxford Music Online are available in COUNTER-1 format.

Code is provided so that a library can embed a search box for Oxford Music Online on other web pages.

Includes audio clips using the Sibelius Scorch plugin, which allows users to "view, play, customize and print Sibelius scores." Sites that do not allow users to install plugins on PCs will have to include this plugin in their standard installations if they want to enable the features this content allows.

OTHER REVIEWS OF THIS DATABASE:

Harper, Meghan. "Explore And Tap Into Multiple Musical Resources With Oxford Music Online." *School Library Media Activities Monthly* 25.7 (2009): 46-48. *Professional Development Collection*. Web. 27 Feb. 2015.