Welcome to Notes from MPAL!

Notes from the Music and Performing Arts Library (or Notes from MPAL for short) will be a twice-yearly publication, with one issue in the fall and one in the spring.

We will be sharing information about the Library such as staffing changes, facilities updates, and announcements about new and existing services and policies. We will also be highlighting recent significant acquisitions, tips about using Library tools and resources, and other news that we hope will be of use to our patrons.

Staff News

New Librarian

We are happy to announce that Kate Lambaria has (re)joined the MPAL staff as the Visiting Music and Performing Arts Librarian. She assumes duties that Kirstin Dougan carried out before her appointment as Interim Head of MPAL. These include reference, instruction, graduate assistant training, collection development, and more. Kate was a graduate assistant in MPAL from 2013-2015 before going on to be the Fine Arts Librarian at the University of Nevada Las Vegas. Kate holds her BA in Music (Ethnomusicology) and her MS in Library and Information Science from the University of Illinois.

Services

Circulating Technology

MPAL has expanded its circulating technology holdings to include eight portable CD/DVD drives. These use USB connections so that you can listen to CDs or watch DVDs on your laptop or desktop computer if they don’t have internal disc drives. You can also borrow one of our seven iPads, some of which come pre-loaded with a variety of useful apps.

The drives and iPads circulate for one week and can be renewed if another similar device is available for use.

Contact Us

* mpal@library.illinois.edu
* 217-333-1173
* library.illinois.edu/mpal/
* @mpalillinois on Twitter
Schedule Research Appointments

Now you can schedule research appointments with either of the librarians (Kate and Kirstin) online by picking from open times on their calendars. The easiest way to do this is to visit our Contact page library.illinois.edu/mpal/contact/ and click on the “Schedule Appointment” button next to one of our names.

Faculty and instructors are encouraged to promote this service to their students and are welcome to take advantage of it as well!

Course Reserves Best Practices

MPAL continues to offer a physical course reserves service. Instructors can place recordings and print materials on reserve behind the MPAL Service Desk for students in their class(es) to use.

We ask that instructors include the items’ call numbers in their course syllabus or in other communication methods with their students (Blackboard, etc.).

This makes it easier for students to ask for the right item and for library staff to locate it on the reserves shelves, since things are shelved by call number, not course due to cross-listing of materials.

Contact Bill Buss (wmbuss@illinois.edu) with any questions about physical reserves.

While we no longer offer an online reserves service, we can assist you with finding appropriate and durable links to articles and recordings for you to post in Blackboard or another platform for your students. All of the tracks in our online A/V streaming databases have individual links.

You can also create playlists in our licensed streaming tools. Here’s more information on how to do this: guides.library.illinois.edu/playlists

Significant Acquisitions

New ASP Streaming Tools

Due to the generosity of Library Administration, we now own Alexander Street Press’s Ethnographic Sound Archives and Broadway HD (video). They join our suite of other ASP audio and video offerings.

“Ethnographic Sound Archives Online brings together 2,000 hours of audio recordings from field expeditions around the world.”

“Broadway HD’s mission is to promote and preserve live theatre, extending the reach of Broadway and Broadway-caliber shows to anyone, anywhere.”

You can find them linked from our homepage.

Tool Tips

WorldCat Catalog

WorldCat is a powerful tool for locating print materials, recordings, and more beyond our holdings. We recommend that you use the version offered through the Library, which is linked under “Other Catalogs” on our homepage.

You can limit your search to:

- items in specific formats or languages
- items published in a specific date range
- items held at U of I

Regarding formats, in WorldCat “Music” is audio recorded music and “Musical score” is printed music.

WorldCat often includes multiple records for the same item, depending on how the owning library has decided to describe it, so you might need to look at multiple records to find exactly the item you want.

Once you find the item you want, as long as it’s not available from us or elsewhere in iShare, you can request it by clicking on the “Interlibrary Loan Request” button under “Availability.”

Before you place a request for an item, make sure that there is not a copy available either in our library or in the iShare system or your request will be denied.

Please contact us if you need help demystifying WorldCat at all!