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LIBRARIES

Music Libraries in Music Teaching Institutions: Impact of COVID-19

By Misti Shaw, Cook Music Library, INDIANA UNIVERSITY BLOOMINGTON

COVID-19 impact on variety of areas

- Access to physical collections and research materials
- Access to physical spaces, browsing, equipment, wifi, other services
- Bibliographic instruction
- Virtual reference
- Employment conditions

Today's brief presentation will focus on the first two:
Access to physical collections and Bibliographic instruction



Access to Physical Collections

Because most teaching institutions closed by early April, libraries also closed. Patrons have been unable to access print collections, including books and scores.

- **Musicians** are unable to select and attain new print repertoire to practice during these months of quarantine.
- **Students** enrolled in summer courses are unable to use print books and scores to enrich their research projects (not all materials are digitally available). **Doctoral students** cannot access print materials to prepare for their exams (*especially challenging for compiling bibliographies and pedagogy materials, activities that incorporate substantial browsing*).
- **Professors** cannot assign readings or score studies if they didn't previously scan those materials.
- **Authors** cannot supply information to editors for final fact checks, page numbers, etc.
- **Researchers** are unable to spend their summers accessing archives and special collections



Access to Physical Spaces and Services

- Browsing is impossible in most closed libraries.

Students and researchers have a harder time conducting thorough literature reviews.

Conductors and professors have a harder time exploring and compiling repertoire and course content that feature music from underrepresented people and cultures

Users cannot access reference tools that are not available digitally; these are tools that users often rely on, such as phonetic transcription books.



Access to Physical Spaces and Services, cont.

Equipment is no longer available to the users who relied on it from their libraries.

Audio recorders, video recorders, microphones, tripod stands, and headphones would be helpful to **users** involved in digital meetings, but this equipment is mostly unavailable for checkout

Students often rely on libraries for strong and stable wifi

Users rely on library spaces for quiet and safe areas to study

Professors cannot use library classrooms; ability to use library spaces as a professional background during virtual teaching is nearly impossible



Bibliographic Instruction, spring and summer

- Teaching librarians must conduct sessions online instead of in person, in classrooms, or in library spaces
- Students have a hard time focusing on a screen lecture for more than 4 minutes. Teaching librarians must adjust pedagogy to break materials into chunks
- Library workers have tried to quickly make videos to show students how to search databases and tools, such as RILM and Grove. There is a steep learning curve with some video editing software. Captions are required, which means librarians must use scripts and edit clips
- Library workers are learning to rely on document cameras to showcase special collections materials for summer courses.



Bibliographic Instruction, upcoming fall

- Librarians who teach must adjust their instruction programs. For example, if freshmen music theory students usually learn to browse for call numbers in their first semester, when will they learn these skills in the future?
- When librarians who teach wear a mask, how will students succeed if they struggle to hear? Or understand the librarian's language?
- Students in computer labs often have access to two screens—the screen at the front of the lab that the teaching librarian uses, and their own computer screen. But, students learning at home on their own devices often have one screen, which makes it more difficult to watch a demonstration and search a tool at the same time.



Questions? Comments? Please, tell us about your experiences!

Misti Shaw, Head of Public Services and Outreach
Cook Music Library, Indiana University

mistshaw@Indiana.edu



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