Appendix 2: Finding Resources and Unraveling the Music Research Process

You know the Music Library has lots of useful resources, but how do you navigate the numerous paths to information? The following roadmap will help you find the scholarly resources you need, and help you learn to ask questions that will lead you to valuable information and resources.

Before you begin...

- Have an idea of what it is you need. Do you need a score? A recording? Information? What kind of information do you need? A fact? A short biography of a musician? A definition of a term? A book on symphonies? Etc.

- Know why you need this information (or score or recording) as this will impact what kinds of materials you seek out. Are you researching a composition you will be performing? Are you curious to know more about it? Are you writing program notes? Are you writing a paper for class? Etc.

Words of wisdom...

- The following is a useful guide to doing research. It is not exhaustive.

- The true roadmap of research is the string of questions you ask yourself and answer as your research progresses. Each research project varies, and often leads to different paths. Use these flowcharts as a first step to your research, and let your questions lead you beyond what is listed here.

- Always seek out your local librarian for more help (or if you get lost)!

J. Oates – July 2013





