UNIV 1200: Across the ‘Black Atlantic’: Jamaica’s Impact on Community, Culture and Music in Britain and Canada
Lindsey Robinson
The Library at U of G

- 7 Floors (including the basement)
- Writing, Studying and Research Help
- Ask Us Desk is there to help (Ask them any question!)
What are we going to do today?

- Choosing the Best Information
- Finding Quality Sources
- Research Tips
- Getting Help
CHOOSING THE BEST INFORMATION
CRAAP TEST: Currency

The timeliness of the information.

- When was the information published or posted?
- Has the information been revised or updated?
- Is it current or out-of-date for your topic?
- Are all the links working?
CRAAP TEST: Relevance

The importance of the information for your needs.

- Does the information relate to your topic or answer your question?
- Who is the intended audience?
- Is the information at an appropriate level?
- Have you looked at a variety of sources to make sure this is the best one?
- Are you confident and comfortable using this source for an academic assignment?
CRAAP TEST: Authority

The source of the information.

- Who is the author? (publisher, source, sponsor)
- What are the author’s credentials or the source’s reputation?
- What makes them qualified to write on the topic?
CHOOSING THE BEST INFORMATION

CRAAP TEST: Accuracy

The reliability, truthfulness and correctness of the information.

• Where does the information come from?
• What evidence do they use to back up their claims / statements?
• Has the information been reviewed or refereed?
• Can you verify it with another source?
• Is there bias?
CHOOSING THE BEST INFORMATION

CRAAP TEST: Purpose

The reason the information exists.

- What is the purpose of the information?
- Is it fact? Opinion? Propaganda?
- Is it objective and impartial?
- Consider the bias! (Political, ideological, cultural, religious, institutional)
Today’s Research Topic

Analyze the intersections and/or crossroads of punk and reggae in the United Kingdom.
1. What type of source is it?

2. Would you use it in a University assignment? Why/Why not?
- Currency, Relevance, Authority, Accuracy and Purpose

Example 1

Source:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caribbean_music_in_the_United_Kingdom
Types of Information: Encyclopedia

Authors: Depends on the Encyclopedia

Use:
✓ Pick a topic and learn the basics.
✓ Find general information on a topic, identify important people, key dates, terms, etc.
✓ Identify keywords to help search.
✓ Use references to find new information.
Activity

- Think on your own
- Discuss with a partner
- Share with the class
Reggae Britannia: How reggae dug its British roots

As a new BBC documentary shows, the irresistible rhythms of Jamaica changed the course of pop music.

Source:

1. What type of source is it?

2. Would you use it in a University assignment? Why/Why not?
- Currency, Relevance, Authority, Accuracy and Purpose
Types of Information: Newspaper

Authors: Journalists.

Use:
- Find information or opinions on popular topics
- Up-to-date information about current events
White Reggae: Cultural Dilution in the Record Industry

Mike Alleene

The way I feel about the music... it can be copied, you know, but is not copy do it. Is the feel.

—Bob Marley

It is difficult to underestimate the importance of the idea that "there is a rough correspondence between the 'commercialization' of popular music and its 'cooptation'" (Garofalo '79). The wide cultural exposure which has enhanced the recognizability of reggae has been achieved primarily through a corporate commercialization effected at the expense of both the lyrical and instrumental essence of the music. This process has involved coerced or voluntary assimilation of more commercially compatible characteristics, appropriation by white mainstream artists, and an overall dispersal of ideological and musical meaning and creative value.

The mainstream Euro-American audience has continually demonstrated a propensity for adopting reggae-oriented material on the basis of its aesthetically pleasing surface qualities rather than for explicitly political or deeper musical content. Indeed, some research has suggested that this audience has in fact largely failed to comprehend what is actually being sung (Winer 36). Chart successes by reggae artists and pseudo-reggae songs by white pop artists have utilized fragmented elements of the music's syntax while simultaneously divorcing it from the political polemics of Rastafari, and reggae culture in general. Paradoxically, then, the very popularity of reggae, which has led to its global adoption among various artists and audiences, has contributed significantly to its ideological defusion and creative dilution.

The digital era in musical-instrument technology has further facilitated clinical replication of the mechanics of reggae by groups such as Sweden's Ace of Bass. The limited commercial applications of this technology (drum machines, sequencer, samplers) have created a neutral zone resulting in reggae/dancehall practitioners creating less culturally distinctive music, while coincidentally imbuing similar Western fabrications with a false aural/cultural authenticity. However, while the mechanics of reggae can be technically reproduced, the intangible cre-

Example 3

Source:
http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/pdf/10.1080/03007760008591758

1. What type of source is it?

2. Would you use it in a University assignment? Why/Why not?
- Currency, Relevance, Authority, Accuracy and Purpose
Types of Information: Academic Journal Article

Authors: Scholars in an academic or professional field

Use:
✔ When doing scholarly research.
✔ To find out what has been studied on your topic.
✔ Bibliographies (Works Cited) that will take you to other related research.
✔ For Peer-Reviewed / Refereed Information
   ✔ What is Peer Review? (Video)
Example 4


1. What type of source is it?

2. Would you use it in a university assignment? Why/Why not?

- Currency, Relevance, Authority, Accuracy and Purpose
Types of Information: Primary Source

An artifact created during (or close to) the time period

- Newspapers
- Poetry
- Music/Lyrics
- Letters and Diaries
- Art and Photographs

Use:
✓ To understand a time, place or perspective.
CHOOSING THE BEST INFORMATION

- All sources need to be evaluated
- Does it pass the CRAAP test?
- Watch Choose the Best Info: Why Evaluate? (VIDEO)
FINDING QUALITY SOURCES
What are your first steps?

Research Topic:
Analyze the intersections and/or crossroads of punk and reggae in the United Kingdom.
Finding Quality Sources

- Start at the Library Homepage
- Under “Top Pages” select “Course Guides”
- http://guides.lib.uoguelph.ca/UNIV1200JAMAICA
RESEARCH TIPS

• Identify keywords and brainstorm synonyms and related terms
• Access library resources
  • Off-Campus login
  • Connect to Google Scholar
• Try and try again
• Look for facets
  • Refine your results by Resource type, date, subject
GETTING HELP
GETTING HELP

- Help finding sources for assignments
- Get feedback on your writing
- Learn about citation and reference styles
- Time management and study strategies
- Supported Learning Groups (SLGs)
- Hands-on workshops and more!

Chat, Email, Phone or Drop By
Questions?
bit.ly/2UNIV1200
Contact

• Lindsey Robinson
• lindseyr@uoguelph.ca