TANG DYNASTY: MUSIC, DANCE, & PERFORMING ARTS

A Bibliography Plan
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I. Introduction

A. Topic

An imperial dynasty of China, the Tang Dynasty was one of the greatest periods in Chinese and world history and became known as China’s Golden Age. The founder of Tang was Li Yuan, while his son, Li Shimin, laid foundations for Tang rule (Rossabi, 134). Li Yuan ruled the Tang Dynasty from 618-625 AD. After he died, Li Shimin became the second ruler from 626-907 AD and became known as Emperor Taizong.

With Emperor Taizong as ruler, he made many different changes to China, most of which was influenced during the Sui Dynasty. He strengthened his government by “organizing many of the empire’s adult males into militias (fubing) to guard local areas and the capital”, which was a Sui policy (Rossabi, 137). Another successful change that he made was to reduce the legal code’s harshness by having officials send him three different reports of crimes before executing the guilty. Emperor Taizong also expanded the Tang, controlling the Silk Roads and having successful foreign policies. All in all, Emperor Taizong became known as the Greatest Emperor of the Tang Dynasty.

During this time, art, music, literature, and philosophy started to flourish. Many people expressed themselves through writing poetry, creating art, and making music. Music and dance were an important form of entertainment and was used by everyone including royalty, military, and common people. Music flourished during the Tang Dynasty with influences from foreign countries. There were three main musical style distinctions: court music, common music, and foreign music. Court music consisted of two types of presentations which were standing music that was performed in the courtyard without stringed instruments and a full sitting ensemble performed inside the palace. The main musical instruments played during this dynasty were the flute, drums, zithers, bells & stone chimes, and lute (“Chinese music”). There were two categories of dance during the Tang Dynasty, known as martial and civil. Martial dances were known to be vigorous and bold, while civil dances were soft and graceful (Huo, 58).

B. Scope and Intended Audience
This bibliography plan is intended for students at a university level who are interested in majors such as Chinese Studies, Asian Studies, History, Music, or Theatre. It will provide a brief history of the Tang Dynasty in China and how music and performance impacted the dynasty. Students who want to learn more about the Tang Dynasty’s music and performance will be able to easily search for articles and other sources through this libguide. All resources provided were included in relation to the history of the Tang and how its music and performing arts flourished during that time. There are also videos to provide samples of the music and dance for the students.

C. Organization

This bibliography plan is organized by sources that were used, including print reference material, library catalogs, databases, and online sources. The subtopics are included in the table and contents. If needed, refer to the table of contents for access to the organization of the bibliography plan and the page numbers.

D. Style Manual

The MLA style will be used to format all sources in this bibliography plan. For in-text citation, (author, page number) will be used.


E. Library of Congress Subject Headings
   a. China
   b. China-History-Tang dynasty, 618-907
c. Music-China

d. Music-Performance-China-History

e. Dance-China

f. Theater-China

F. Call Numbers

1. Library of Congress

D = World History and History of Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia, New Zealand, etc. (General)
DS701-799.9 = China
DS733-779.32 = History
G = Geography, Anthropology, Recreation
GV = Recreation, Leisure
GV1580-1799.4 = Dancing
M = Music and Books on Music
ML = Literature on Music
ML55-89 = Aspects of the field of music as a whole
ML198-360.6 = By region and country
P = Language and Literature
PN = Literature (General)
PN2219.3-3030 = Special regions or countries

II. Search Strategy

For my search strategy, I first used the University of Hawaii Voyager Catalog and did simple keyword searches. I wanted to find print sources first before looking at databases online and other online sources.

A. Library Catalogs

1. University of Hawaii Voyager Catalog
In using the University of Hawaii Voyager Catalog, I used the search keyword Chinese music to start off. I kept it to the basic search because I wanted to see how many results I could get and if there are any relevant sources that I could use within the first five pages of the search. However, there was an overwhelming amount of sources, 1,799, and many of them were not relevant to my topic that I began narrowing down my search by using the advanced search in Voyager. I used the Boolean search and quotation marks to find better results. I searched “tang dynasty” AND music, received 34 results, but found only a couple of books that could help with my topic. I went back and refined my search to “tang dynasty” AND history, replacing music with history to see if I could find more sources that could potentially have the tang’s music history. I received much more results, 1100, which is still quite a lot, but I was able to find better print sources within five pages that could be used.

B. Browsing the Shelves

After going through Voyager and finding many books that could help with my topic, I went into Hamilton Library and started to look for them. As I searched for them, I skimmed the table of contents of each book to get an idea of what the content was going to be. I was able to narrow down my sources to about three books. The books I found were A History of China, by Morris Rossabi, Call Number DS735 .R68 2014, Li Shi Min, founding the Tang Dynasty: the strategies that made China the greatest empire in Asia, by Hung Hing Ming, Call Number DS749.42.T35.H86 2013, and China: a history, by Harold M. Tanner, Call Number DS735 .T33 2009. They were all very detailed with the history of China, especially the Tang Dynasty, which I thought could be mentioned in my topic because the Tang Dynasty’s history is important to leading up to how it became the Golden Age of China where music, dance, performing arts, and literature and poetry were very popular during that time. The book that I found the most reliable was A History of China, by Morris Rossabi. It provided a lot of content on the Tang Dynasty and had a section of the history of the music and performing arts during this time. I used this book as a tool for most of my information for the topic.

C. Databases-General and Multidisciplinary
1. Academic Search Premier

*Academic Search Premier* provides full text for over 4,000 journals and is a multi-disciplinary database. It provides cited references for many titles and is accessible through EBSCOhost.

Although my partner found this database useful, I did not seem to find any articles that could be of help to this project. I started searching using Boolean once again, typing in tang dynasty AND music OR performing arts. I received 69,117 results and the first page was mostly filled with just performing arts articles in general. There were a couple that were about the Tang Dynasty, but it was more focused on the poetry. I went on searching through different databases.

2. China Academic Journals

*China Academic Journals* is a database that focuses mainly on academia in China, such as literature, philosophy, history, education, law, and health. It provides full text articles which can be viewable through PDF format.

This database is another database that my partner mainly used during her search. She showed me articles from this database when we met a few times for our LibGuide project. It had one article in particular that she found reliable. The only problem was that this database was in Chinese and it was somewhat difficult to find the English button.

3. Encyclopedia Britannica Online

*Encyclopedia Britannica Online* is a database that is also a ready reference source. In relation to the topic, it provides a history background of the Tang Dynasty and goes into detail about anything specific, such as how different cultures influenced the music and art of the Tang Dynasty.

I found this database very useful for this project. I used keywords ‘tang dynasty’ and ‘tang dynasty music’ and it provided a variety of subjects to choose from. For my ‘tang dynasty’ search, I chose the first result, which was “Tang dynasty (Chinese history). It provided a brief
summary of the founding of the dynasty and also touched on the Emperor and his successors. It was short but very informative of the history.

I went on to search ‘tang dynasty music’ and Encyclopedia Britannica Online gave me quite a few subjects that were of great help. I looked through “Tang dynasty (7th-10th century)”, “Courtly music”, “Musical theatre”, and “Chinese performing arts”. I found that the “Tang dynasty (7th-10th century)” was very informative, especially with the music, instruments, and performing arts history.

D. Databases-Specialized Databases-Performing Arts

1. Arts & Humanities Full Text

   *Arts & Humanities Full Text* a multi-disciplinary database that provides arts and humanities literature. It is accessible through ProQuest.

   Since music and performance is a type of art, I thought *Arts & Humanities Full Text* would be a possible database to search for sources. I searched ‘tang dynasty AND music’ and received 1,078 results. The first result was actually one of the books that my partner used for her part, which was a physical copy of the book. It was really interesting to see that this book, *China’s Golden Age: Everyday Life in the Tang Dynasty*, was the first result. It showed how relevant and reliable this source is to our topic and it really was.

2. International Index to Music Periodicals (IIMP) Full Text

   *International Index to Music Periodicals (IIMP) Full Text* provides a very good list of sources strongly related to music and performance in the Tang Dynasty. The articles provided in this database are useful in learning more about the topic.

   As usual, I used Boolean and typed in ‘tang dynasty AND music’ and received 162 results. It seemed to be a reasonable amount of results I was able to find articles about the topic within the first page. I found articles such as “‘Yuebu’ of the Tang Dynasty: Musical Transmission from the Han to the Early Tang Dynasty”, which is about the court music system
during that time, and “A Logic in the Court Music of the Tang Dynasty”, which is an article that talks about court music during this time.

3. International Index to the Performing Arts (IIPA)

*International Index to the Performing Arts (IIPA)* is an index database that provides content of over 130 international periodicals. It covers the arts and entertainment industry, such as film, dance, theater, musical theater, and much more.

In searching ‘tang dynasty AND music’ again for this database, I received 120 results. It was much less than the other two databases that I searched, but found this database to be useful as well. It had quite a few articles on the music and performing arts during the Tang Dynasty and some were articles on specific musicals that were set during the Tang Dynasty.

These specialized databases proved to be very useful when searching for articles on the Tang Dynasty and music. Although I used the same search style for these databases, the results provided quite a number of articles that were relevant and reliable for the topic. Using the Boolean search strategy and quotation marks was my main search strategy for most of my research and it really helped me to find what I was looking for.

E. Online Sources and Search Engines

1. Google

In searching for online sources, I used Google as my search engine and used keywords ‘tang dynasty music’. It provided me with an overwhelming amount of 927,000 results. However, I just looked through the first five pages and found some sources that seemed to be reliable. I was able to find sources on the song and dance of the Tang dynasty and also found culturalchina.com to be a really good source as well. Not only did it provide information on Chinese culture now, but also provided history on the different cultures which included the Tang dynasty, of course. I browsed through a few more and most were articles about the history of the Tang dynasty itself.
Although music and performing arts were very popular during the Tang Dynasty, it could not have been possible without instruments. I searched for Chinese instruments using keywords ‘tang dynasty instruments’. I received 194,000 results and decided to skim through the first couple of pages. A lot of them provided brief description of certain instruments and found that there were four instruments that were very popular, which were the erhu, guqin, konghou, and pipa. They were all different types of stringed instruments and each were very unique in shape and size, as well as sound. I started searching for each one. When I searched for ‘erhu’, I received 589,000 hits but found a really good online source on the first page. It gave a detailed history of the erhu, famous people who are known to play the instrument, and also gave pictures and videos as samples to show what it looks like, how it sounds, and how it is played. This instrument, having only two strings, was the most unique instrument that I have come across simply because it is played with only two strings but yet makes beautiful music.

I continued to search for the other three with just the instrument names and, of course, received a huge number of results, but found a reliable source within the first page for all of them. To come across these instruments and to learn about them is a real eye opener, showing how talented these Chinese people were during the Tang dynasty and how some have evolved into what they are today.

III. Conclusion

While working on this assignment, I found a couple of areas that I felt would be beneficial for me in my career as a future academic librarian. One is being able to search in different ways to find sources and using specific databases to find articles on specific topics.

Learning to search in different ways, such as Boolean, would be very useful when I need to search for different print materials. Since I like to have physical sources, I always like to browse the shelves in the library before moving on to different sources. Being able to narrow my search using the advanced search tool helps to better my search skills and find what I am looking for with more ease. I still have yet to be more comfortable with other search techniques, but once I become familiar with those techniques, it will help me to become better at searching for sources, whether it be print or online.
Using specific databases to find articles for research is a great way to help narrow your research time. Knowing your topic helps to find materials that you need for your research. Before joining the LIS program, I had no idea what databases were and what they were used for. I’ve always went to Google when I needed to find online sources and to find out about databases really opens your eyes other articles that are out there. There are many different databases to choose from and it’s kind of relieving to know that there are other sources to find in other places besides searching on Google. Also, knowing that the University of Hawaii Library website provides access to these databases also helps with learning and searching as I go through this program.

The process of this assignment was at times overwhelming because my partner and I were limited to what time and day we were able to meet for this project. However, we were able to pull through and meet a few times and it really helped with creating our LibGuide as well as the bibliography plan. Also, my partner and I at times didn’t know what we were supposed to look for when working on this project. For example, for our bibliography/libguide plan draft, we weren’t sure how we were going to present or create our libguide and so we were stuck with what we needed to write for the draft. We kept it simple and short as to give an idea of what we were going to do. With a lot of searching, emails, texts, and such, my partner and I were able to finish the first part of the bibliography plan together and made any changes and edits if they were needed. It was great working on this with a partner because we were able to help each other out during the process of our libguide and bibliography plan.

Another problem that I encountered during this assignment was remember to write down my search strategies and keywords. I did write a few of my searches down after doing them, but most times I was very concentrated on my research that it slipped my mind to document what I had searched for and what my results were. I needed to retrace my steps and I was able to document my work afterward. There were a couple of sources that I tried to find by retracing my search steps, but for some reason, I wasn’t able to find them. However, I did find other sources that seemed more relevant to the topic and so I decided to use those instead.

This bibliography plan did require a lot of time and work, but if I were to do one again, I feel that I would be much more time efficient with my searches because of all the different databases, searches, and sources that I learned. I will be able to utilize them by narrowing my
search and using the different databases and online sources that I have learned throughout working on this project.

Appendix A: Search Strategy Relevancy Tables

KEY
HR: Highly Relevant, most items were relevant to the topic
SR: Somewhat Relevant, mix of relevant and non-relevant items
NR: Not Relevant, few or no relevant items

Controlled Vocabulary (CV): in all caps
Natural Language (NL): in lowercase

*For Boolean, and, or, and not, are italicized.

University of Hawaii Voyager Catalog

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<th>Field</th>
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<th>Number of Results</th>
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<td>SR</td>
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Academic Search Premier

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<td>NR</td>
<td>17</td>
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TANG DYNASTY: MUSIC, DANCE, & PERFORMING ARTS

Encyclopedia Britannica Online

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<td>HR</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tang dynasty music</td>
<td>KW</td>
<td>HR</td>
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Arts & Humanities Full Text

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<tr>
<td>Tang dynasty and music</td>
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International Index to Music Periodicals (IIMP)

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<th>Number of Results</th>
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<td>TANG DYNASTY: MUSIC, DANCE, &amp; PERFORMING ARTS</td>
<td>JANE LOMBOY</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Appendix B: Sample Annotated Bibliography

Ready Reference

This ready reference source provides a brief summary of the history of the Tang Dynasty. It touches on the different emperors that ruled during this time and the culture history. It also provides links to more specific topics, such as courtly music, Chinese music, and performing arts.

Instruments


This online source provides the history of the erhu instrument, which is a two-stringed bowed instrument. It introduces some famous musicians who mastered in the art of playing the erhu as well as video samples of how it is played and how it sounds.


This online source provides a detailed history of the pipa instrument, a Chinese lute or guitar that is one of the most famous instruments in China today. It gives video samples of the instrument and how it has evolved from the pre-Tang dynasty days to today.

History


This printed source provides the history of China, ranging from the different dynasties to different ethnic groups. It also focuses on what each dynasty had to offer during their time and what was accomplished in each era. This source helps to better understand the culture and history of China.
**Music**


   This YouTube video gives insight to how Chinese music sounded like during the Tang Dynasty. This type of music was played for imperial dancing. You can hear different instruments being played and the structure of the music.


   This YouTube video shows different dance styles during the Tang dynasty, which is still performed today. It also shows different instruments that were used during this time. It can be seen that each dance and performance has its own beauty and tells a story.
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Academic Search Premier. 2014. EBSCOhost Publishing. [online database].

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International Index to the Performing Arts (IIPA). 2014. ProQuest. [online database].


