

INDEXING RAP MUSIC LITERATURE: AN EXPERIMENT INTO THE CREATION
OF A RAP MUSIC DATABASE USING THE SOURCE: THE MAGAZINE OF HIP-
HOP MUSIC, CULTURE, AND POLITICS

by
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Rap music has steadily increased in both its popularity and influence upon American culture. As rap music's importance increases, access to its literature must be provided. Most information databases index articles on rap music that appear in mainstream publications, yet magazines devoted to the coverage of rap music are overlooked. One exception is the International Index to Music Periodicals (IIMP), which indexes *The Source: The Magazine of Hip-Hop Music, Culture & Politics (The Source)*, the first and one of the most popular rap magazines devoted to the coverage of rap music issues. IIMP's indexing of rap related periodicals is insufficient and incomplete. Using *The Source* for initial database content, a prototype information database was constructed with Procite 3.2 for Windows. Twelve issues of *The Source* were indexed using terms from a thesaurus developed exclusively for this database and from Library of Congress Subject Headings.

Headings

Indexing vocabularies

Indexing – Serial publications

Information systems – Special subjects – Rap music

Thesauri – Special subjects – Rap music

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INTRODUCTION: THE POPULARITY OF RAP MUSIC

Music Sales

Rap music is not the passing fad it was predicted to be when it started in the 1970's. As an expressive vehicle among the youth of South Bronx, New York, early artists such as GrandMaster Flash, Kool Herc and Afrika Baambaata pioneered rap music. Throughout the rest of the 1970's the music steadily increased in popularity. The beginnings of it's commercial success came with the release of the Sugar Hill Gang's "Rapper's Delight" in 1979. The success continued in the 1980's as Run-King of Rock was released in 1984, becoming the first rap album to sell more than 500,000 copies and obtain a gold certification. Since this time, rap music has steadily increased in sales and popularity and has had a solid founding of 20 years.

The sales figures for rap recordings from the past few years offer conclusive evidence of rap music's prominent status. According to the Recording Industry Association of America rap music was the fastest growing genre of 1997. In 1997, rap music increased its market share 1.2% from the previous year (RIAA). Soundscan calculates that in 1998, rap music sales surpassed what was then the nation's top selling genre - country music. In 1998, 81 million rap CD's, tapes and albums were sold compared to 72 million country albums (Farley et al. 56). These numbers reflected a 31% increase in rap music sales from 1997 to 1998!

Along with increasing sales rap music and hip-hop culture continues to be an ever-present aspect of American society. Rap artists have pursued leading roles in movies and endorsed products ranging from sodas to video games. *Time Magazine's* February 8, 1999 cover story details the importance of rap music in our society by

describing how hip-hop penetrates movies, literature and the fashion industry (Farley et al. 56).

As the popularity of rap music has increased, its presence is seen in the academic realm as well. Many texts have been written on the implications and social ramifications of rap music and college and graduate level courses are being taught at universities on its importance. The University of Alberta's Institute for Popular Music provides one example. Adam Krims, the director of the Institute, has taught courses on rap music for the past 3 years and has found the demand for these lessons rising ("Hip-hopping from Ghetto to Campus"). Access to the rap literature for both general public inquiries and as support for academia is therefore important and necessary.

Access to the Literature

Many general information databases such as InfoTrac, Academic Universe, and Carl Uncover provide coverage on rap-related articles that appear in mainstream media publications such as *Time*, *Newsweek*, and *Billboard Magazine*. These databases may also index and include information from some of the scholarly African-American culture and music journals such as *Western Journal of Black Studies* and *Ethnomusicology*. However, missing from these larger databases are publications devoted to the coverage of rap music and hip-hop culture. It appears that magazines such as *The Source: The Magazine of Hip-Hop Music, Culture & Politics* (here after referred to as *The Source*), *RapPages*, *4080*, *XXL*, and *Hip-Hop Connection* are not consistently indexed by any commercial database. One wonders if indexers see these publications as less scholarly in content. This master's project was undertaken to explore ways in which to provide access to additional sources on rap music. This master's project involves the creation of an electronic database of rap music issues documented in *The Source*. The project

extended from a personal desire to index the magazine for the purposes of providing increased access to the literature on rap music and hip-hop culture and as an effort to apply the principles and concepts learned from the Indexing & Abstracting course at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's School of Information & Library Science.

THE SOURCE AND ITS INDEXING

The Source & Other Rap Magazines

The Source, beginning as a newsletter in 1988, was the first publication devoted to the coverage of rap music. Published by David Mays the magazine is issued 12 times a year. In 1998, the magazine's paid circulation was 200,000 (Ulrich's). According to a search in Online Computer Library Center, Inc. (OCLC), 69 libraries, mostly public, subscribe to *The Source*.

In addition to *The Source*, there are several other publications from the United States and abroad that are devoted to the coverage of rap music and hip-hop culture. Some of these, as aforementioned, include *RapPages*, *4080: the Hip-Hop Monthly for the Greater Bay Area*, *Hip-Hop Connection*, *Blaze* and *XXL*. *RapPages* and *4080*, like *The Source*, have also been in publication for several years, beginning in 1991 and 1992 respectively. *Blaze* and *XXL* began publication in 1998. It is likely that the number of publications covering rap music will continue to grow in coming years, increasing the need for access to these publications. *The Source* was chosen as the initial serial because it is the longest running magazine devoted to the coverage of rap music and hip-hop culture, having been in publication for more than a decade. The types of articles that

have appeared in its pages are varied and can provide a solid foundation for the creation of a rap music database.

Indexing by IIMP

The Source as one of the more dominant magazines covering rap music is currently indexed by the International Index to Music Periodicals (IIMP). Music Index and RILM Abstracts of Music Literature, the two other popular music databases, do not index *The Source*. IIMP, as a music database with a general scope, does not index *The Source* at a specific level nor index issues completely. For example, in 1998 all twelve issues published that year were indexed, in 1997 ten issues were indexed, and in 1996 only four issues were indexed. Email communication with IIMP discovered that as of March 1999 there were no plans by the company to retroactively index any issues before 1996. (Koonce). Additionally, IIMP does not index the album reviews of *The Source*, a feature that is one of the better known aspects of the magazine. Of the 348 records from *The Source* in IIMP, only one album review has been indexed. On average, each issue of *The Source* contains about 8-9 reviews, providing IIMP with the opportunity to have indexed more than 200 reviews.

IIMP also inconsistently identifies which section an article comes from. Articles that appear in *The Source* are arranged one of many sections the magazine has designated. Further descriptions of the contents and coverage of these sections may be found later on in the paper in Table 2 under the discussion on "Sections Included." At times, IIMP will include the section names as part of the article's title, at other times this information is not provided. This inconsistency can increase the difficulty in searching for relevant information. Finally, of the several rap music publications that are in existence, IIMP only indexes this one title.

In addition to inconsistent indexing of issues and sections of *The Source*, IIMP also has limitations in providing topical access to important issues. Given the wide scope of IIMP, subject terms applied to articles are general. Examples of assigned terms include “Rap Music”, “Rap Musicians”, “African Americans”, and “Rap Groups”. This limitation is common in other databases that index rap music articles. The database for this project, focusing on rap music and hip-hop culture may eliminate general subject terms.

Most databases have some inherent problems, such as misspellings, inconsistent indexing, and other mistakes, as IIMP demonstrates. The goal of this project was not solely to correct all of these errors, for errors do occur through the process of human indexing. The intention instead was to provide greater access to the literature than IIMP currently provides.

The Source Web Site

The Source, through its web site, is currently undertaking steps to help increase access to its own contents (Source). The site, started in 1999 offers users some access to their magazine contents. As of spring 1999, after the implementation of this project, the web site began offering a searchable database of their rated record reviews. User’s can search the reviews by artist, magazine issue, and date. As of this writing, their record review database encompasses most of their reviews from April 1993 to December 1997. While this service overlaps with some of the contents of this database, it does not diminish the overall importance of this project. Their web site currently only offers access to the rated record reviews and does not offer access to the numerous articles that have appeared throughout the magazine's history.

PERIODICAL INDEXING

Differences from Book Indexing

The indexing of periodicals differs in many ways from traditional back of the book indexing. In undertaking this project, these differences have been examined and considered. While the principles of the types of indexing are the same, periodical indexing has its own set of unique requirements. According to Wellish, one of the functions of an index is to “provide users with an efficient and systematic means for locating documents that may address information needs,” (“Book & Periodical Indexing” 620). Both methods of indexing fulfill this requirement, yet periodical indexing takes longer, has a higher variability in subject coverage, encompasses different terminology and requires further advance preparation than back of the book indexing.

Periodical indexing is often a project of undetermined length due to the serial publication of periodicals, and completing a periodical index may require several years. Wellish states that book indexing, in contrast, “is compiled only once, within a relatively short amount of time,” (“Book & Periodical Indexing” 372). Additionally, the indexing for periodicals is usually a team effort, whereas one indexer frequently performs book indexing.

The subject coverage of periodicals may differ greatly than that of books. Cleveland & Cleveland assert that the coverage and emphasis of topics may shift and “each issue in a periodical may deal with unrelated topics, by several different authors, written in different styles, and aimed at different users,” (35). The subject scope of a book however, is generally more thematic. This is demonstrated by Wellish's statement that a book usually focuses upon one central topic demonstrating a fixed level of specialization treatment (“Book & Periodical Indexing” 273).

Language usage also separates the two forms of indexing. Book indexers select terminology directly from the text of the book often using author terms and descriptions. However, greater care is needed for indexing periodicals, as different authors will use varying terms to reflect the same topic or idea. The establishment and usage of controlled vocabularies for periodical indexing is often a requirement and may assist indexers in bringing “order out this divergence,” (Cleveland & Cleveland 36).

Policy Considerations

Before a periodical is indexed, numerous decisions are required on the part of the indexer(s) about what to index. Decisions on points of access are necessary beforehand (Cleveland & Cleveland 36). What constitutes an article? According to Wellish, an article may be defined as “a contribution that has a title, is signed by one or more authors, and is at least one page long,” (Indexing from A to Z 275), yet naturally, this definition is subject to individual interpretation. Depending on the publication and aims of the index, other items such as news items, book reviews, and question-and -answer columns may not qualify as indexable material. While decisions will vary from person to person, once decisions have been made, they should be consistently followed. For this database, similar policy decisions were made in determining what qualifies as indexable material.

Not only must the indexer decide what to index, but the method of indexing and the final format of the index or database also merit consideration. Consistency of indexing terms and methods for their revisions should be addressed. While various types of indexes can be produced in print format, electronic databases offer more flexibility in producing print indexes. Indexing activities are affected by the desired final format of an index. These aspects were also considered in the creation of the database for this project.

DATABASE CREATION

Choosing Procite 3.2 for Windows

Procite 3.2 for Windows was the software chosen for this database. Other applications such as Microsoft Access & InMagic were investigated, but were not utilized due to limitations in program features and available resources to the database creator. A review of the library literature described successes in using bibliographic management software for indexing purposes and Procite was continuously given a high rating.

Deb Biggs' book Procite in Libraries (1995) assisted in the evaluation of how Procite may be used in the creation of this database. The text contains a collection of accounts of how Procite has been effectively used in various library settings. There are descriptions of the software being used as an interface to several other database formats, used to create databases for specific disciplines such as Women's Studies and scholar activities on campus, and also being used to create an index to a local journal.

Procite has several features that support its use. Some of these include:

- 1) The existence of pre-designed workforms with varying fields. These workforms may readily be adapted and customized for individual use.
- 2) Flexible editing options within the database. The "Global Editing" feature allows entire workforms or text within specific fields to be edited for individual records or all records of the database at once.
- 3) Easy browsing features. Users can browse through the records by title, author or subject terms. Additionally, these lists of terms serve as excellent authority files allowing spellings to be easily spotted and corrected.
- 4) Quick production of reference lists. As a bibliographic management software package, printed indexes to the contents of the database are easily produced.

There are disadvantages to Procite. These include:

- 1) No built in spell checker.
- 2) Special characters and symbols are not facilitated by the database. Therefore, the inclusion of accent marks in personal names and other data have not been properly included.
- 3) Difficulty editing the printed lists that can be produced. For optimal editing, the printed lists should be exported to a word processing software package after being generated.
- 4) No built in protection. A read-only version of the Procite is required for content protection. Without this version, database contents are unstable.

Overall though, the benefits of Procite contributed to its use in the creation of this database.

Database Contents

While it is the eventual goal of the author to index all the magazine issues, for the purposes of this project there were limitations as to how many issues time would allow. The database for this paper consists of 12 indexed issues. These twelve issues are a combination of issues from a four-year time span of the magazine. A random sample of 3 issues from each of the years 1995, 1996, 1997, and 1998 were indexed. The purpose of choosing issues from 4 different years was to facilitate a greater variation in topical coverage than might be provided by indexing 12 concurrent issues of the magazine. Individual issues were selected by generating random numbers with Minitab statistical software version 9.1 and version 1.2 for Windows. The random numbers generated resulted in the selection of the following issues.

Table 1: Issues Selected for Indexing

January 1995	April 1996	January 1997	January 1998
April 1995	September 1996	October 1997	May 1998
October 1995	October 1996	November 1997	December 1998

Field Determination

After establishing content to be indexed, the next step was to set the database fields. Procite offers the user a wide variety of pre-formatted record styles. In making the record style finally used, adaptations upon the style “Journal, Analytic” were made. Using some of the fields predetermined by this style, additional fields were inserted and pre-existing fields were deleted. The final format established for the records are shown below as a screen shot of the actual database.

Figure 1 is not available in the PDF formatted version of this document.

[However, the fields referred to are Author, Article Title, Source, Date of Publication, Issue, Pages, Section, ISSN, & Subject Terms.]

The determination of these fields was based upon the database creator's research. The **Author** field is self-explanatory. This field is necessary to attribute credit to the person responsible for the article or feature to be indexed. In cases where the contributing person was a photographer or editor, their name was placed here also. There are no distinctions in the database to differentiate between the types of authorship, whether they were an author, photographer, or editor.

The **Title** field contains the title of each article or feature. In case of titles that had subtitles, they were included if they were not extensive in length. The determination for length was that when the title is entered into the database field, subtitles that would cause the resultant length to be more than one and one-half lines of text were not included. This is to keep the retrieval results list to a reasonable size. The **Source** field indicates which publication the article comes from. In the case of the issues for this project, the information in this field is the same for all articles, with the publication being *The Source*. However, as this is the beginning of an ongoing project, in the future material from other rap music magazines may be included, therefore making this a valuable access point.

The **Issue** and **Pages** fields include the date and year of the issue and the page numbers of each article. The **Section** field is an effort to increase consistency in identifying when articles are a part of regular sections of *The Source*. IIMP places this information in the title, a practice that unnecessarily lengthens that field. Additionally, as aforementioned, IIMP is inconsistent with providing the section information for specific articles. For articles that were not part of a regular section, this field remains empty and information will only display if text is in the field. Other rap related magazines also have regular sections or departments so this field that will have varying content based upon the publication as database development continues.

The **ISSN** field has the International Standard Serial Number of the publication. Again, because for the purposes of this paper, the information in this field is the same for all of the articles, yet as future expansions occur, the information will vary and will be a valuable point of access. The **Abstract** field is where abstracts will be placed as the database is expanded upon at a later date. At this point, this field is empty for a majority of the records. There are some exceptions however. One regular feature of *The Source* is the album reviews that the magazine provides in each issue. For those record reviews the rating the magazine has given the album is recorded in this field. The ratings information will remain in this field as complete abstracts are added. The **Subject Terms** field contains subject terms assigned to the articles and features of the issues indexed.

SUBJECT INDEXING

Exhaustivity vs. Specificity

Subject indexing is also has certain rules and standards that should be followed. In addition to those of periodical indexing, these guidelines were incorporated in the development of the database and in the indexing practices used. Lancaster defines subject indexing as “the process by which the subject matter of bibliographic items is represented in published databases - printed or electronic form” (Indexing and Abstracting in Theory & Practice 16). The level of access an indexer provides to article contents is one of the central principles of subject indexing, usually revolving around the concepts of exhaustivity and specificity. Exhaustive indexing may involve the assignment of many subject terms to one article, in an attempt to reflect every concept the article may examine. As Wellish states, “exhaustivity is a function of indexing policy, what an indexer decides to index” (Indexing from A to Z 121).

Indexing for specificity, while similar to exhaustivity, has a different objective. Lancaster agrees that the indexer should use the “most specific term that entirely covers it (Indexing and Abstracting in Theory and Practice 28). The most specific term refers to the hierarchical relationships the term may have with other terms. For example, Wellish uses the example of an article on silk blouses. The hierarchical structure, from most general to most specific would be: clothing -- women’s clothing -- blouses -- silk blouses. The indexing term of choice would be "silk blouses", and not the more general terms of “women’s clothing” or “blouses” as it is the most specific in this hierarchical structure (“Book & Periodical Indexing” 356). Selecting and using “silk blouses” optimizes the specificity of the indexing. Specificity, however, can be subjective in nature.

Wellish addresses the question of “How specific is specific?” Indexing for specificity, which is usually done with the aid of controlled vocabularies, is only as specific as these vocabularies allow. As Wellish asserts, “that, in turn, will depend on the perceived or anticipated need for detail on the part of prospective users of documents” (“Book & Periodical Indexing” 357). Discussed later in more depth, the subject of interest in this project is rap music, with fringe areas held in consideration. In the thesaurus developed for this project, while the entry of “Music History” appears without further relationships and hierarchical levels defined, expansion on this term would most certainly appear in a specialized thesaurus for history. This would permit an indexer to assign a more specific term to the document. In the developed thesaurus for this project, more explicit relationships are made for terms that reflect rap music and hip-hop culture.

In the effort to increase specificity beyond current levels, an initial aspect of this project was the creation of a thesaurus of terms associated with rap music and the hip-hop culture. The thesaurus was created as an assignment for the Indexing & Abstracting course with the intent on using the terms collected and developed to index

articles from *The Source*. For topics which are not directly related to rap music, terms from the Library of Congress (LC) Subject Headings were utilized (Library of Congress Catalogs).

Selecting LC Subject Terms

In choosing LC terms for indexing in this rap music database project, specific words and phrases that the Library of Congress uses in their indexing were relied upon. The primary method of choosing terms came from using a feature found on the LC web site. This page is a subject browse page that allows the user to enter a term and search subject headings. When a term is entered, the results show items that are catalogued with that term. If that term is not authorized, the user is pointed to the valid terminology. Additionally, suggestions for narrower and broader terms are offered. The terms are displayed in a format that breaks down the pre-coordinated LC subject strings. This is the primary means by which terms that were not specifically related to rap music and hip-hop culture were selected. In addition to the web-based version of the subject headings the print volumes were also referenced.

Another aspect considered was that of indexing articles that discusses artists as subjects. In addition to rap artists, many politicians, and other notable personnel are subjects themselves. In indexing their names, the format used was as found in the Library of Congress Name Authority File, as accessed through OCLC. For artists and others with no name authority file, the most common format that the name appears was utilized. For people that go by their birth names or given names the format in which their names appear are last name, first name. For many rappers and artists with stage names, the order of the stage name has remained in tact. For example, Busta Rhymes is entered as Busta Rhymes and not Rhymes, Busta.

CREATING THE RAP AND HIP-HOP THESAURUS

Controlled Vocabularies & Natural Language

The thesaurus developed to support this project is provided as Appendix A. The thesaurus was created as an effort to try and increase the level of specificity for rap music and hip-hop literature. A thesaurus, as a form of controlled vocabulary, can increase the level of access, provide a standard vocabulary, increase collocation, and improve consistency. However, the professional literature reveals an open debate upon the validity and usefulness of controlled vocabularies. Researchers such as Svenious (1986), Rowley (1994), and Lancaster (1989) all discuss the advantages and disadvantages of each method.

The purpose of using controlled vocabularies for indexing is to “redress certain retrieval problems caused by the use of natural language in retrieval,” (Svenonius 332). As Wellish outlines, advantages include the ability to “ensure consistency and uniformity and to improve the effectiveness of retrieval, whether online or in personal indexes kept by users,” (“Book & Periodical Indexing” 202). Lancaster illustrates how natural language searching also has advantages. Users searching with natural language terms are able to search on new terminology that may not be reflected in controlled vocabularies, less effort is undertaken by the user in establishing what the controlled vocabulary term is for a specific concept, and natural language searching may be preferred by subject specialists (Indexing and Abstracting in Theory and Practice 229).

The disadvantages of controlled vocabularies and natural language are addressed by the advantages of the other. Using the two techniques in combination may offer a partial solution to the debate. Wellish states that many tests have shown a combination of the two “is the most effective way of information retrieval from electronic databases,”

("Book & Periodical Indexing" 202). Procite 3.2, the software chosen for this project, facilitates both natural language and controlled vocabulary searching.

Collection of Terminology

In constructing the thesaurus, several articles and sources on thesaurus construction were referenced. Of the many available guidelines, of particular assistance was Batty's 1989 *Database* article. In addition to following the guidelines Batty offered, ANSI guidelines (National Information Standards Organization) for thesaurus construction were also implemented.

In his article, Batty outlined several steps to follow in thesaurus construction. A first step is identifying the potential users. The potential users of the thesaurus and database would be students and researchers interested in accessing rap literature whose knowledge of rap music would not be expected to be extensive. A next step is identifying the area to be covered. Following Batty's guidelines, the core area needed to be determined, as well as the fringe and outside areas. The core area for this project was issues of rap music and hip-hop culture, the fringe area was issues of African-American culture in general, so there are terms within the thesaurus that reflect those topics. The outside area however would be anything else unrelated for which attempts have been made to keep at a minimal level in the thesaurus. Because the controlled vocabulary listing is small and to be used in conjunction with another controlled vocabulary listing - the Library of Congress Subject Headings, the determination of an outside area was not deemed applicable.

The collection the terms was conducted from perusing existing rap music literature due to the uniqueness of the subject. Collection began by going through several years of *The Source* looking for terminology and phrases to include. As already

discussed, the rap literature includes more than just *The Source* so issues of other rap magazines such as *XXL*, *Blaze* and *RapPages* were also browsed.

Further sources of terminology to be used included books written on rap music and music subject texts. The Library of Congress Subject Headings and the Music Thesaurus Subject Headings were also scanned. While each of these sources had some rap-related terminology, there were not many pre-established subject headings for rap music. From a combination of these sources, terms that seemed to appear often and appear in a consistent fashion were determined. Additionally, a few general music reference sources for terminology were consulted.

The collection of terms was done using index cards. As terms were discovered they were written down along with any related, broader, or narrower terms that may assist a potential user. After collection, the terms were organized into a thesaurus format. Arrangements to reflect hierarchies and relationships were established in a manner intended to increase access.

Organization & Maintenance

The resultant number of terms in the Rap & Hip-Hop Thesaurus were fewer than expected as many terms outside the core area were eliminated. However, some general terms remained so as to provided contextual and relationship information. Some of these general terms may not be as specific as rap and hip-hop, but they represent themes and issues that arise frequently in the music and should not be disregarded. Examples of some of these are the entries “Firearms” & “Violence.”

Batty states that maintaining a thesaurus is important to its effectiveness. While maintenance was not an initial concern as the thesaurus was created, it became apparent as indexing progressed that this would be important. During the indexing, new

terms were invariably established and added to the thesaurus. Given future plans to continue using the thesaurus to index the complete run of *The Source* as well as other publications, future modifications and updates will surely be made.

SELECTION CRITERIA OF ARTICLES TO INDEX

In selecting which features of *The Source* to index, decisions needed to be made beforehand. As discussed earlier, the indexing of magazines varies greatly from traditional book indexing. For this project, articles that were a half a page or less have been indexed if the information was of value to the goal of the database. Following standard guidelines, minor news items and briefs have generally not been included. Book reviews are included and indexed in a consistent format that reflects the author of the book, the title of the book, and the identification of the reviewer.

Sections Included

Sections of *The Source* were indexed in the database yet not assigned indexing terms. These were:

- Flavors of the Month** - A page devoted to reviews of 4 or 5 commercial products
- Coast 2 Coast** - Various pictures of rap artists
- Off tha Head** - Question asked to three people
- Reality Check** - Feature author comments on general state of the rap industry

The other regular sections of *The Source* that were subject indexed appear in Table 2 below. In addition to these, feature and full length articles are also included.

Table 2: Sections of *The Source*

Title of Section	<u>Content Covered</u>
Editorial	Introductory essay by the magazine editor or feature contributor.
Ear to the Street (ETTS)	Happenings in the music industry. Beginning in 1998, this section was further divided into subsections below.
ETTS: Health & Fitness	Health concerns and issues.
ETTS: Styles & Trends	Various happenings in fashion and trends.
ETTS: News & Nation	Political & legislative events in the African-American community.
ETTS: Entertainment	Entertainment issues – also encompasses book and game reviews that are described as separate sections.
ETTS: Beats & Lyrics	Contains Unsigned Hype & Hip-Hop Quotable which were also maintained as separate sections.
Media Watch	How rap music is treated in mainstream media.
In the Hood	Profiles of the rap scene in various cities.
Unsigned Hype	Profile of a rap artist not currently signed to a major record label.
Hip-Hop Quotable	Lyrics from selected rap songs.
On the Screen	Covers African-Americans in the film and television industry.
Microphone Check	Short interviews featuring artists with upcoming albums.
Styles of the Source	Fashion spreads and layouts.
Record Report (RR)	Reviews of music. Has three sections as listed below.
RR: Albums	Reviews of full length rap albums with Source rating system.
RR: Compilations, Alternatives & Soundtracks	Reviews of R&B albums, soundtracks, and rap compilations.
RR: Sure Shot Singles	Reviews of rap music singles.
Independent's Day	Covers the underground rap music scene.
Carlito's Ways	Industry news and happenings.
Source Sports	Coverage of African-Americans in the sports industry.

Sections Excluded

In deciding what constituted an article, certain features were not included from guideline recommendations and lack of content. These include:

Fat Tape- listing of current popular music singles

Best Buys - listing of current popular albums

Bits & Pieces - collection of news snippets about various artists

Heavy Rotation - listing of more popular albums

Last Word - cartoon drawing that appears at the end of most issues - usually a caricature of the artist that appears on the issue cover.

Rap on Sports - news snippets from the sports industry

Perhaps in the future, these sections of the magazine will be included, but given the nature of these features and the time limitations; concentration was spent indexing the more substantive aspects of *The Source*. However, this could be a potential area for improvement.

CONCLUSION

Rap music, as a subject area that is popular and steadily increasing in that popularity, access to it is extremely important. This project is just the beginning of an effort to provide increased access to rap music materials. A database with access to rap music periodicals and articles on rap music that appear in numerous other magazines would enhance access significantly.

This project was an initial foray into methods to provide indexing services for rap literature and identified the need for more work in this area. Providing abstracts so users can judge relevancy, providing a greater coverage of materials, and refining of database software, perhaps by making it accessible via the web, are some of the directions this project could go in the future. Furthermore, investigations into the usefulness and effectiveness of the database might also be explored. As the goal was to increase subject

specificity and access, that aspect of the database could be tested as the amount of material within it grows and more items are included.

As readers might be interested in learning more about the database that was created, sample screen shots and searches have been included in Appendix B. The first search is an author search using the browsing features identified in the section on the advantages of Procite. The second search is by artist using Boolean commands. The third search demonstrates a search for album reviews and the example record displays the album rating. Should further questions arise, contact information for the author may be obtained through the School of Information and Library Sciences' Alumni Office.

APPENDIX A: RAP & HIP-HOP THESAURUS

A

Album Reviews
 Anti-Gangsta Movement
 RT Censorship
 Art
 NT Graffiti
 RT Tagging
 Artists
 NT Foreign Artists
 Awards
 RT Contests

B

Battles
 B-Boys
 RT Breakdancing
 Baseball
 NT Baseball Players
 BT Sports
 RT Basketball
 Baseball Players
 BT Baseball
 Basketball
 BT Sports
 NT Basketball Players
 RT Baseball
 RT Football
 Basketball Players
 BT Basketball
 Bass Music
 Bay Area
 BT West Coast Rap
 BT California
 Beat Box
 Big Willie Style
 Black Cinema
 Boxing
 RT Baseball
 RT Basketball

RT Football
 BT Sports
 Breakdancing
 RT B-Boys

C

Censorship
 RT Anti-Gangsta Movement
 RT Pro-Rap
 Comedians
 Comics
 Commercial Rap
 BT Rap Genres
 RT Commercial Rap
 RT Female Rap
 RT Gangsta Rap
 RT Gospel Rap
 RT Hardcore Rap
 RT Horror-Core Rap
 RT Old School Rap
 RT Political Rap
 RT Reggae Rap
 RT Underground Rap
 Compilations
 RT Mixtapes
 RT Soundtracks
 Concerts
 UF Tours
 Conferences
 Contests
 RT Awards
 Criminal Charges

D

Dance Clubs
 RT House Music
 Dancehall
 RT Reggae

Directors
 NT Motion Picture Producers and
 Directors
 NT Video Directors
 Discrimination
 DJ (Disc Jockey)
 NT DJ Contests
 RT Production (Music)
 RT Sampling
 DJ Contests
 BT DJ (Disc Jockey)

E

East Coast Rap
 RT Northcoast Rap
 RT Southern Rap
 RT West Coast Rap
 Endorsements
 RT Marketing

F

Fashion Designers
 RT Fashion Labels
 Fashion Labels
 RT Fashion Designers
 Female DJ's
 RT Female MC (Emcee)
 Female MC (Emcee)
 RT Female DJ's
 Female Rap
 BT Rap Genres
 RT Commercial Rap
 RT Gangsta Rap
 RT Gospel Rap
 RT Hardcore Rap
 RT Horror-Core Rap
 RT Misogyny
 RT Old School Rap
 RT Political Rap
 RT Reggae Rap
 RT Underground Rap

Firearms

UF Guns
 Football
 BT Sports
 NT Football Players
 RT Baseball
 RT Basketball
 RT Boxing
 Football Players
 BT Football
 Foreign Artists
 BT Artists
 NT Latino Artists
 RT Underground Artists
 Funk Music
 NT P-Funk Music
 NT G-Funk Music

G

G-Funk Music
 BT Funk Music
 RT P-Funk Music
 Gang Members
 BT Gangs
 Gangs
 NT Gang Members
 Gangsta Rap
 BT Rap Genres
 RT Commercial Rap
 RT Female Rap
 RT Hardcore Rap
 RT Horror-Core Rap
 RT Old School Rap
 RT Political Rap
 RT Reggae Rap
 RT Underground Rap
 Gold Certification
 BT Record Certification
 RT Platinum Certification
 Gospel Rap
 BT Rap Genres
 RT Commercial Rap
 RT Female Rap
 RT Gangsta Rap

- RT Hardcore Rap
- RT Horror-Core Rap
- RT Old School Rap
- RT Political Rap
- RT Reggae Rap
- RT Underground Rap

Graffiti

- BT Art
- RT Tagging

Guns

- USE Firearms

H

Hairstyles

Hardcore Rap

- BT Rap Genres
- RT Commercial Rap
- RT Female Rap
- RT Gangsta Rap
- RT Horror-Core Rap
- RT Old School Rap
- RT Political Rap
- RT Reggae Rap
- RT Underground Rap

House Music

- RT Dance Clubs

Horror-Core Rap

- BT Rap Genres
- RT Commercial Rap
- RT Female Rap
- RT Gangsta Rap
- RT Hardcore Rap
- RT Old School Rap
- RT Political Rap
- RT Reggae Rap
- RT Underground Rap

I

Incarceration

- RT Legislation

Independent Labels

- BT Record Labels

J

Jazz

- RT Soul Music

L

Label Executives

- RT Record Labels

Latino Artists

- BT Foreign Artists

Legislation

- RT Incarceration

Lyricism

- RT Poetry

Lyrics

M

Magazines

Marches

Marketing

- RT Endorsements

MC (Emcee)

- NT Female MC (Emcee)

Military

Misogyny

- RT Female Rap

Mixtapes

- RT Compilations

Motion Picture Producers and Directors

- BT Directors

- RT Video Directors

Music Attitudes

Music History

Music Industry

- USE Music Trade

Music Retailers

Music Scene

Music Trade

- UF Music Industry

N

Northcoast Rap
 RT East Coast Rap
 RT Southern Rap
 RT West Coast Rap

O

Old School Rap
 BT Rap Genres
 RT Commercial Rap
 RT Female Rap
 RT Gangsta Rap
 RT Hardcore Rap
 RT Horror-Core Rap
 RT Political Rap
 RT Reggae Rap
 RT Underground Rap
 RT Zulu Nation

Opinions

P

P-Funk Music
 BT Funk Music
 RT G-Funk Music
 Platinum Certification
 BT Record Certification
 RT Gold Status
 Poetry
 NT Spoken Word
 RT Lyricism
 Political Rap
 BT Rap Genres
 RT Commercial Rap
 RT Female Rap
 RT Gangsta Rap
 RT Gospel Rap
 RT Hardcore Rap
 RT Horror-Core Rap
 RT Old School Rap
 RT Reggae Rap
 RT Underground Rap
 Pro-Rap

RT Censorship
 Production (Music)
 RT Sampling

R

Radio
 NT Radio Personalities
 NT Radio Stations
 Radio Personalities
 BT Radio
 Radio Stations
 BT Radio
 Rap Genres
 NT Commercial Rap
 NT Female Rap
 NT Gangsta Rap
 NT Gospel Rap
 NT Hardcore Rap
 NT Horror-Core Rap
 NT Old School Rap
 NT Political Rap
 NT Reggae Rap
 NT Underground Rap
 Record Certification
 NT Gold Certification
 NT Platinum Certification
 RT Record Sales
 Record Distributors
 Record Labels
 NT Independent Labels
 RT Label Executives
 Record Producers
 Record Sales
 RT Record Certification
 Recording Studios
 Reggae
 NT Reggae Rap
 RT Dancehall
 Reggae Rap
 BT Rap Genres
 BT Reggae
 RT Commercial Rap
 RT Female Rap
 RT Gangsta Rap

RT Gospel Rap
 RT Hardcore Rap
 RT Horror-Core Rap
 RT Old School Rap
 RT Political Rap
 RT Underground Rap

RT Gangsta Rap
 RT Gospel Rap
 RT Hardcore Rap
 RT Horror-Core Rap
 RT Old School Rap
 RT Political Rap
 RT Reggae Rap

S

Sampling
 RT Production (Music)
 RT DJ (Disc Jockey)
 Seminars
 Soul Music
 RT Jazz
 Soundtracks
 RT Compilations
 Southern Rap
 RT East Coast Rap
 RT Northcoast Rap
 RT West Coast Rap
 Spoken Word
 BT Poetry
 Sports
 NT Baseball
 NT Basketball
 NT Football

T

Tagging
 RT Graffiti
 Tours
 USE Concerts
 Trip Hop

U

Underground Artists
 BT Artists
 RT Foreign Artists
 Underground Rap
 BT Rap Genres
 RT Commercial Rap
 RT Female Rap

V

Video Channels
 Video Directors
 RT Motion Picture Producers and
 Directors
 Violence
 RT Firearms
 Voting

W

West Coast Rap
 NT Bay Area
 RT East Coast Rap
 RT Northcoast Rap
 RT Southern Rap

Z

Zulu Nation
 RT Old School Rap

Appendix B is not available in the PDF formatted version of this document.

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