

A NEW PUBLICATION PROGRAM DEVOTED TO POPULAR MUSIC
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"Popular music" has long been an orphan when it came to bibliographic or descriptive control by libraries. Whether the music was live, recorded or written about, it suffered from a lack of expertise and time that has been spent on "classical" or "serious" music. Now, through a series of articles, books, and annual indexes, data about popular music has a chance to be retrieved by both librarians and the public - quickly and cheaply.

Dean Tudor and Andrew Armitage are the editors in charge of a massive publication program to disseminate popular music information. First to be released is their ANNUAL INDEX TO POPULAR MUSIC RECORD REVIEWS, covering all reviews in some 45 general and specialist music magazines, and arranged by type of music categories (e.g., country, rock, blues, etc.). This Scarecrow Press publication, with over 7300 citations for 1972, will retrospectively cover the 1947-1971 periodicals as well. Future dicennial cumulations will be published, with fresh re-evaluations of the "best" records of the period. Each annual will also include relevant label addresses.

Another Scarecrow Press venture will be the POPULAR MUSIC PERIODICALS INDEX which will provide access/retrieval on an annual basis to articles dealing with popular music as found in some 50 general and specialist magazines. The first year covered will be 1973. A unique feature will be a comprehensive subject thesaurus.

The basic work, to be published by Libraries Unlimited, is POPULAR MUSIC, which will survey all fields by musical genres. It will provide, by means of interpretive essays and reviews, a complete pre-selected guide to the best and most enduring of recorded popular music. The method of approach will involve citation analysis based on what is essential, historical, or influential. Other material, equally important, will cover the treatment of popular music records in the library, their use and maintenance, and so forth.

Coupled with all this is a series of articles in LJ/SLJ PREVIEWS on the best of the year's output, subject surveys, and a continual stream of reviews. In all cases, the written literature assessed comes from the English-speaking world. The records and musicians themselves are international. Thus, coverage is extended to England, Canada, France, Italy, Sweden, Japan, and so forth.

The editors are more than just "subject specialists"; both are active critics on the music scene, being involved as reviewers and Contributing Editors. Dean Tudor is a librarian with the Government of Ontario; Andrew Armitage is Director, Owen Sound Public Library, Ontario.

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