

# Published research by CCP members

## Policy Brief

### Information Seeking for Musical Creativity: A Systematic Literature Review

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**KEYWORDS:** Music, information seeking

**TYPE OF PUBLICATION:** Journal Article

**SUGGESTED CITATION:** Lavranos, C., Kostagiolas, P., Korfiatis, N. and Papadatos, J. (2016), Information seeking for musical creativity: A systematic literature review. *Journal of the Association for Information Science and Technology*. doi: 10.1002/asi.23534

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#### BACKGROUND

- What makes music information seeking unique, from an information retrieval perspective, is the availability of music-related material in many different forms combined with various media formats that are distributed through many channels and methods.
- An examination of individuals' information needs and use provides an opportunity to understand their behavior that is directly connected with creative activities. The primary focus of this study is directed at investigating the interaction between music information needs, sources, and musical creative activities.
- This paper aims to present a systematic literature review of research in music information seeking and its application to musical creativity and creative activities and in particular composition, performance and improvisation, and listening and analysis.

#### METHODOLOGY

- Data extraction and synthesis was performed through content analysis using the PRISMA method.
- The systematic literature review conducted followed the procedure for data collection and analysis described by Petticrew and Roberts (2006).

#### KEY FINDINGS

- Three thematic categories were identified in regard to music information needs: (a) those related to scholarly activities, (b) musically motivated, as well as (c) those which are related to socializing and communication
- Three categories of music information sources were connected to musical creativity: (i) those that are related to Internet and media technologies, (ii) those that are related to music libraries, organizations, and music stores, and (iii) those that are related to the subjects' social settings.

September 2016

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- The paper provides a systematic review, with the aim of showcasing the effect of modern information retrieval techniques in a creative and intensive area of information-dependent activity such as music making and consumption.

#### POLICY ISSUES

- The generalized framework provides an initial insight of relating information-seeking needs and sources employed for musical creative activities. This can facilitate governments' understanding on ways to increase musical creativity.

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#### THE CCP

The Centre for Competition Policy (CCP), at the University of East Anglia, undertakes competition policy research, incorporating economic, legal, management and political science perspectives, that has real-world policy relevance without compromising academic rigour.

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION

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