Using the Jazz Discography

Available by going to the library’s website and clicking:
“Find” > “Online Reference” > “Jazz Discography”

Looking for…

… artists? Use the Leader or Musician search.
… versions of a tune? Use the Tune search.
… instrumental use? Use the Word Search.
… recording location? Use the Word Search.
… recordings by date? Use the Date Search.
… an album? Search by artist or specific tune from the album.

At the top of every screen, you’ll see this toolbar:

Leader
Search by musician/group name. This drops you into an alphabetical index of the names groups and group leaders.
Click on the name to view a chronological list of recording sessions.

Session
This database has assigned each session it’s own unique number, which can be searched here.
After you’ve arrived at a list of recording sessions, two more options appear in this section:
• “Date Search” allows you to narrow your current search to a time period you specify.
• “Index” allows you to narrow your current search to one of a list of possible dates.

Musician
Specifying a name will drop you into an alphabetical index of musicians’ names.
Click on a name to view a chronological list of recording sessions.

Tune
Search for a tune name. This will drop you into an alphabetical index of tune names.
Click on a name to view a chronological list of recording sessions where that tune was recorded.

Multi-Search
Search:
Specify up to 3 musicians’ names and up to 3 tune names.

Date:
Specify any combination of Year, Month, and Day. Use numbers without preceding zeros. (i.e. March is “3”)

Record Label
Searching by company name or release code will drop you into an alphabetical list of labels.
Click on the name to see a chronological list of sessions.
Click on the session name to see musician and tune details.

Word Search:
In addition to searching across the Leader, Musician, Tune, and Session fields, this allows you to search by instrument abbreviation,* nationality, session location, session notes, and the like.
If you wish, you can type “OR” between terms to signal that you want records containing either one or both of the terms you enter.

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1. Use the “Musician Search” and enter First Name: Willie, Last Name: Dixon.
   This will take you to Dixon’s section of the Musician Index (step 2).
   Click on his name to see details of the recording sessions (step 3).

2. **Musician Index**
   - Tony Dixon: 1985, b: 1
   - Vance Dixon: 1923-1932, cl: as, vcl: 12
   - William R. Dixon: 1971, voice, whistling: 1
   - Akua Dixon-Turner: 1995, cello: 1
   - Art Dixon: 2004, d: 1

   The index lists years of performance, instruments, and number of recording sessions.

3. **Tips**
   - Matrix Numbers (if available) identify unique takes.
   - Abbreviated instrument names* follow performer’s names (in parentheses).
   - Group names are considered “last” names in the Leader search.
   - Session number and Leader name listed on the gray bar in red.
   - Only 5 people may use this resource at once. Please remember to log out when finished.

   *Abbreviation glossary:

   - This database is designed so that result screens nearly always give you either chronological or alphabetical context for your recording session, artist, or tune.
   - Names of musicians and tunes are clickable.
   - Clicking here will perform a new search for the musician or tune and present you with a new chronological list of sessions.
   - The Red Ball next to the session number indicates that musicians carried over from previous recording session.
   - Any changes are noted just below the grey line.
   - Click the Red Ball to see the musicians and the instruments they played.

Questions? Contact Iris Jastram - Liaison to Music