Seeking Creativity
A Case Study on Information Problem Solving in Professional Music

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Overview
• Introduction
• Method
• Results
• Discussion

Introduction BACKGROUND
• Information seeking in music...
  – mainly focuses on finding music for leisure (listening); see e.g., Laplante & Downie (2011)
  – has been researched in musical education; see e.g., Meyers & Ishimura (2016)
  – has been researched in non-professional musical contexts (i.e., amateur practice); see e.g., Lavranos et al. (2015)

Introduction BACKGROUND
• Information seeking in music...
  – should be scrutinized in contemporary professional contexts to get information on professional information seeking behavior
  – Analyzing such behavior of ‘subject matter experts’ results in much-needed information for conservatories (i.e., to design task-centered IL instruction)
Introduction QUESTIONS

- RQ1: What comprises musical information-seeking behavior of a professional musician when executing a musical project?
- RQ2: Does musical information-seeking behavior relate to specific project phases?
- RQ3: Does the professional’s information-seeking behavior fit Lavranos et al.’s model?

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Method

- Case
  - Professional musician (popular, jazz, and improvised music); Professional > 25 years
  - Musical project: ‘Falco’, solo piano
  - Project includes composition, improvisation, performance, recording (2-CD), listening, analysis
  - Crowd funded project

Method

- Procedure
  - Data collection:
    - Narrative interview (2 hours; cf. Stroobants (2005))
    - Semi-structured interview (2 hours)
    - Weblog crowd funding site, Personal website, Autobiographical work
  - Data analysis:
    - Thematic open coding of interview data, blog posts, website, and book
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Results RQ1

• goal-directed internet searches: to find information on musicians and solo piano music
  – Facebook Appreciation Groups
  – Amazon (for books on musicians)
  – Websites
• data-driven ‘opportunistic’ searches: to get inspired
  – Online, see above, and YouTube
  – Offline, e.g. in record stores (a dying breed in retail…)

Results RQ2

• Project phases identified. However, many iterations especially between concept phase and realization phase
• Unforeseen critical incidents influence project processes (e.g., Paul Bley; crowd funding success)
• Information seeking constituents part of all phases
  – ‘opportunistic searches’ prevail
  – goal-directed search, especially for booklet CD

Results RQ3

• Model helps to identify information needs and subsequent information seeking behavior in context professional musical projects
• Information needs were not regarded problems
• Sources were both digital and conventional
• IPS aimed at informing both musical activities (e.g., composition, improvisation, recording) and musical products (e.g., CD Booklet)

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Discussion

• Model Lavranos et al. interesting framework to describe IPS in context professional musical projects
• It seems that information seeking is not crucial for project success. However, it helps to ‘nourish’ creativity
Discussion  FUTURE RESEARCH

- Scaling up:
  - Multi-case studies
  - Longitudinal studies
  - Observational studies (triangulation of methods)

Questions

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