Students’ Initiative to Upgrade the UWEC Piano Pedagogy Library

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**INTRODUCTION**

The organization of piano pedagogy material is an ongoing issue for people involved in piano teaching. With multiple method books and a growing amount of pedagogical materials available to the general public, it is becoming increasingly important to have in place a system of organization of these physical materials and a corresponding way to search that system on-line. Without such a system, the wealth of materials potentially available to students of piano pedagogy and piano teachers is cumbersome and difficult to utilize.

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this project was to formulate and implement an accessible and effective organizational system for the materials in the piano pedagogy lab at UWEC. Previously, the organizational system consisted of a file cabinet with a corresponding spreadsheet. This system had worked in the past, however, the spreadsheet was difficult for multiple users to access and did not allow for quick cross-referencing. Additionally, the file cabinet organization was not clearly labeled and materials were easily misplaced. With all of the new technology out there, we wanted something that would more effectively meet our needs for this piano library. After researching many potential on-line database systems, we determined that “Libib.com” was the most efficient program to use, as a personal library system with multiple user access and with excellent cross-referencing capabilities.

**USING OUR NEW DATABASE**

The remainder of our time was used to sort, grade and catalogue the materials within Libib.com, as well as physically, by developing general categories and a leveling/sticker system. We developed an effective system of organizing physical materials of a small library that is completely searchable on-line and convenient to access.

This is the homepage for our libib.com database. All of the UWEC Piano Pedagogy Library books are listed in this database. You can use the search bar on top to search for a specific book, or browse through the selection.

This website also allows you to tag items in your library for even easier searching capabilities. This is the tag list from our library. It allows you to pull out certain categories of music, and it can help find music that may exist in more than one category at one time.

This is our finished physical organizational system. Each book is labeled with stickers that identify it’s location within the cabinet and the musical genre it falls into. Each magazine holder in the cabinet is labeled with a corresponding label/sticker. All of the books are upright, easily visible, and easily accessed.

Each book or piece of music had to be given a grade that tells you what level of difficulty it is and what type of students you should use that particular book/piece with. This book is what we used as a reference for how the materials should be graded in the pedagogy library.