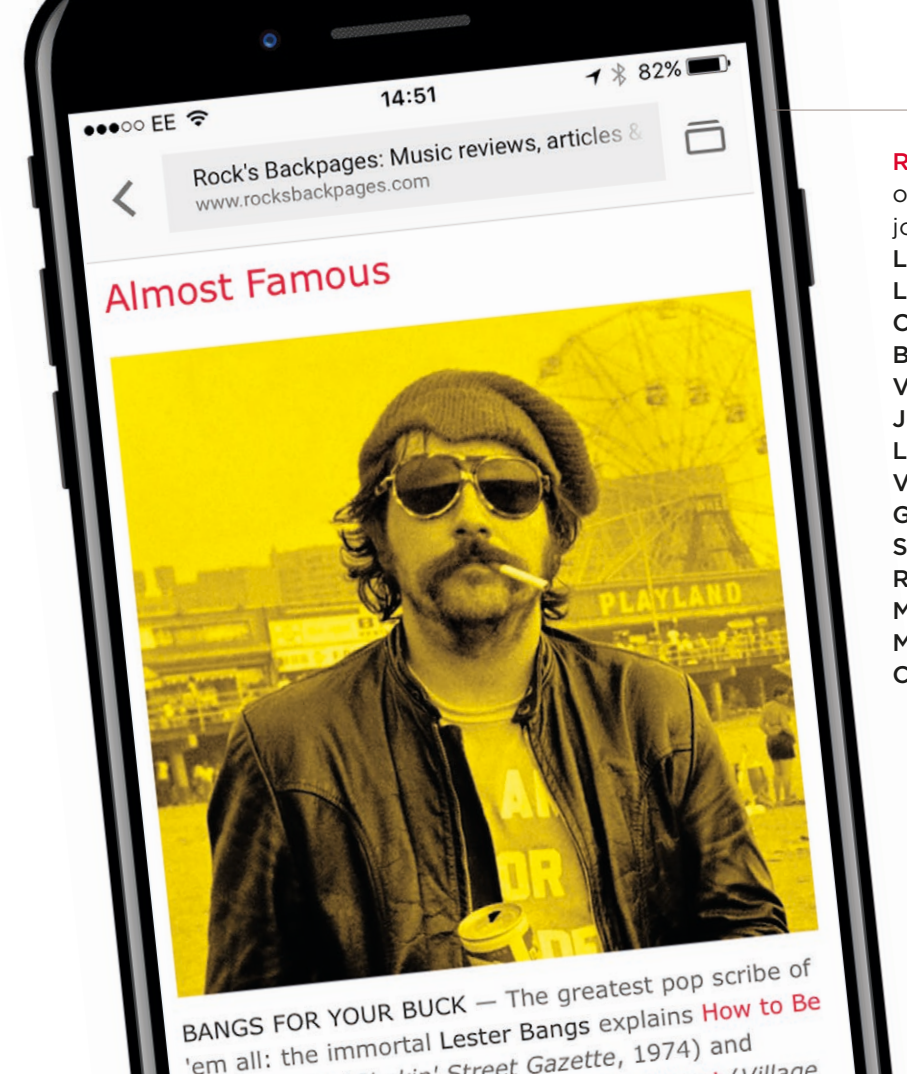
The Online Library of Music Journalism

"An essential resource"
– *Library Journal*

"Reading rock articles was a crucial part of my education, formation, and inspiration. The great thing about **Rock's Backpages** is that it's been done by experts, by people who've got a feeling for it. For me it's definitive..." —***Johnny Marr***

Online music journalism library **Rock's Backpages** (at rocksbackpages.com) is the largest database of music journalism online, featuring—as of Spring 2018—over 35,000 articles on thousands of artists from The Beatles to Taylor Swift.

Online now for 15 years, **Rock's Backpages** has been praised by *Library Journal* as "an essential acquisition for large public and academic libraries, serving serious students a wide range of music from blues and country to jazz, reggae, and, of course, rock and roll."

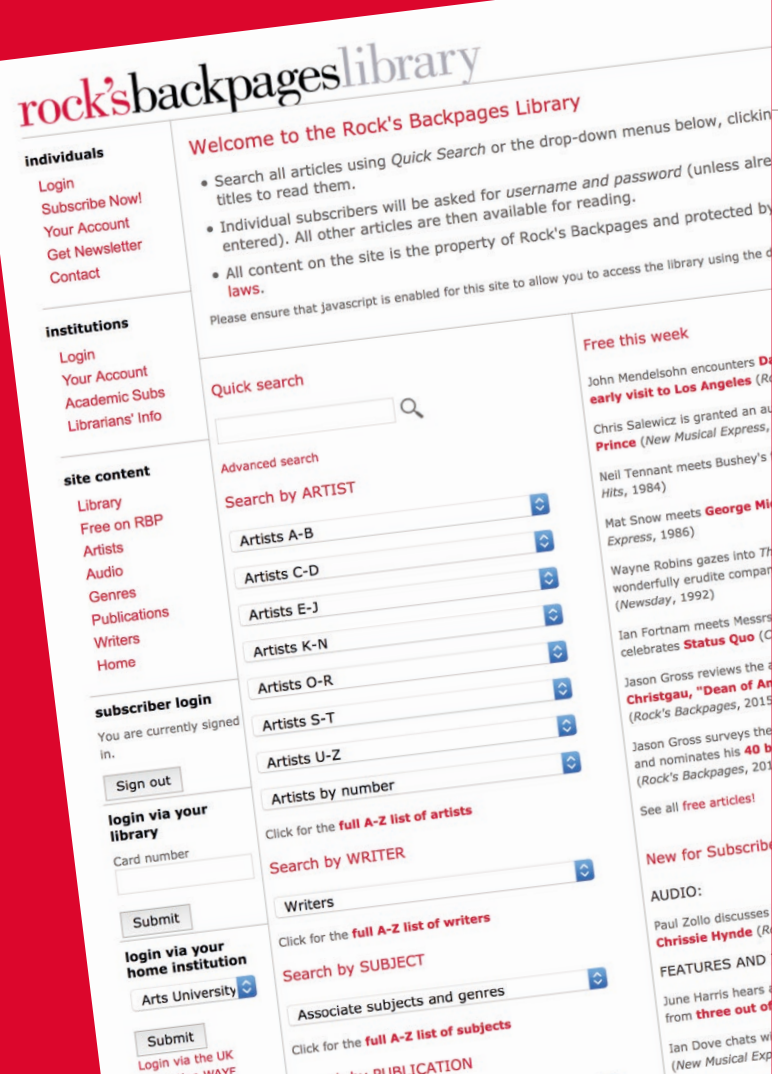


Rock's Backpages features the work of many of the world's best-known music journalists past and present, including **Lester Bangs**, **Greil Marcus**, **Nick Kent**, **Lenny Kaye**, **Nick Tosches**, **Michael Lydon**, **Carol Cooper**, **Dave Marsh**, **Ellen Sander**, **Ben Fong-Torres**, **Norman Jopling**, **Penny Valentine**, **Richard Williams**, **Philip Norman**, **Jon Savage**, **Paul Morley**, **Joel Selvin**, **Loraine Alterman**, **Tim Page**, **Vernon Gibbs**, **Vivien Goldman**, **Gene Santoro**, **Holly George-Warren**, **David Toop**, **Simon Frith**, **Sheryl Garratt**, **Richard Goldstein**, **Robert Greenfield**, **Charles Shaar Murray**, **Mary Harron**, **Glenn O'Brien**, **Evelyn McDonnell**, **Chuck Eddy**, **R.J. Smith**, **Caitlin Moran** and **Simon Reynolds**.

background

The archive draws on numerous publications from *Creem* and *Trouser Press* to *Rolling Stone*, and from *New Musical Express* and *Melody Maker* to *MOJO*. It is fully searchable by artist, genre, writer or keyword (allowing search by album or single title, date etc.).

Rock's Backpages also features a library of over 500 audio interviews, including classic conversations with **Jimi Hendrix** (1970), **David Bowie** (1995), **Bob Dylan** (1991), **David Crosby** (1967) **Kate Bush** (1980), **Mick Jagger** (1973), **Michael Jackson** (1980), **Paul McCartney** (2003), **Joni Mitchell** (1994), **Kurt Cobain** (1993), **Bob Marley** (1975), **Pink Floyd** (1971), **Patti Smith** (1976), **the Velvet Underground** (1993), **Johnny Cash** (1996), **The Clash** (1978), **The Ramones** (1980), **Run DMC** (1986), **Fleetwood Mac** (1977), **Morrissey** (1989), **Jerry Garcia** (1969), **Elliott Smith** (1998), **Donna Summer** (1976), **Marc Bolan** (1974), **Sandy Denny** (1977), **Mary J. Blige** (2005), **Nick Cave** (1986) and hundreds more.



academicresource

Subscribers include over 220 academic institutions worldwide, including **Berklee College of Music**, **Brown**, **Columbia**, **Cornell**, **Harvard (perpetual)**, **Vanderbilt (perpetual)**, **NYU**, **Penn State**, **Princeton**, **Syracuse**, **UCLA**, **Duke** and **Stanford** in the USA, and in the UK, the Universities of **Edinburgh**, **Liverpool**, **Leeds**, **Sheffield**, **Warwick** and the **Open University.** Public library subscribers include **Glasgow**, **Manchester**, **Dallas**, **San Francisco** and **Nashville**.

Our subscribers also include institutions in Europe **(National Library of Norway**, **Oslo University**, **Turku Libraries)** Canada **(McGill, Laval, Ottawa)** and Australasia **(Monash**, **Melbourne**, **Victoria**, **Auckland)** along with the **BBC**, **Oxford University Press**, **CBC-Radio Canada** and the **Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.**

"**Rock's Backpages** is a highly affordable product with unique content."

GAIL GOLDERMAN & BRUCE CONNOLY
Library Journal

"No student of popular music interested in doing substantive research can afford to be without **Rock's Backpages**."

JASON KING
Director, Clive Davis Institute of Writing, History & Emergent Media, New York University

"**Rock's Backpages** is the only resource of its kind to focus on music journalism across all pop music genres from the past 50 years. It benefits not only music students and faculty, but those studying and researching journalism, history, English and pop culture."

LORI WIDZINSKI
Head of Multimedia and Music Collections and Services for the University of Buffalo Libraries

"We have found **Rock's Backpages** useful for those researching popular music for educational purposes as well as for leisure. With classic and contemporary articles featuring a range of artists from different genres, RBP is full of nostalgia for our older users and a valuable source of rock history for the younger ones."

ROSEMARY O'HARE
Principal Librarian, Glasgow Public Libraries

"For the record, let me reiterate that **Rock's Backpages** is an indispensable research tool in the study of popular music. I use it all the time, and assign it regularly to students at all levels."

ROBERT FINK
Department of Musicology, Chair of Music Industry Program, Vice-Chair of the Faculty, UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music

thedatabase

There are currently over **35,000 articles** in the **Rock's Backpages** database. These feature over five thousand artists and range from 500-word album (or concert) reviews to 10,000-word interviews and features. The library also boasts over 500 exclusive audio interviews.

The articles are **full text**, **primary-source** and **fully searchable** (by artist, date, genre, publication, keyword etc.) including an advanced search option with faceted search results and a mobile version optimised for all devices to allow easy reading and research on the go.

Written by almost **700** of the biggest names in **music journalism**, they are taken from the widest possible range of publications in the US and UK: from *Creem* and *Rolling Stone*, and from *NME* to *MOJO*. "The listing of magazines is colossal," wrote *Library Journal* reviewer Matthew Moyer.

The archive covers all genres of popular music from the 1950s to the present: from **Abba** to **Zappa** and **Aaliyah** to **ZZ Top**.

aboutus

Rock's Backpages is operated by Backpages Limited, a company set up in 2000 and run by a team with long experience in music journalism. Co-founder and editorial director **Barney Hoskyns** is a former US editor of *MOJO* and author of such books as *Hotel California* and *Small Town Talk*.

"There is nothing out there that is even remotely like **Rock's Backpages** for exploring the past 50 years of rock music history or the culture that rock music helped to shape," noted *Alexander Street Press*. "Be cool. Subscribe."

In addition to its database, **Rock's Backpages** has produced a number of eBooks and audio downloads. Kindle-edition eBooks include the reissues of Simon Reynolds' *Blissed Out* and anthologies of **Bob Dylan** and **Nirvana** articles. Audio downloads include the last interview with **Jimi Hendrix**. In partnership with Little, Brown, **RBP** has published anthologies of articles on **Joni Mitchell** and **Steely Dan**.

Rock's Backpages is available by Annual Subscription, with pricing based on the type and size of the subscribing institution. Academic institutions are based on the full-time equivalent number of students (FTE), Public Libraries on the population served, and corporate or non-profit organisations are based on the number of employees.

We offer large discounts for consortia and group purchasing. Multi-year subscription agreements are available and we work with the following partners: Lyrasis (Nationwide), Amigos Library Services (South Western States), OhioNET (Ohio, West Virginia & Western Pennsylvania), Califa (California), SCELC (California), Colorado Alliance (Colorado), WiLS (Wisconsin Library Services), WALDO (North East) and CAUL (Council of Australian University Librarians).

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Access authentication is available via the UK Access Management Federation (Shibboleth), IP Range to include Proxy, Library Card Login, Pin, Referring URL and via Username and Password.

Subscribing institutions may co-brand the resource with their own logo and a brief message.

Find out more about the **Rock's Backpages** team at www.rocksbackpages.com/about

To **subscribe** or to **request a free trial***, email subscriptions@rocksbackpages.com or **contact** our **sales director Paul Kelly** on paul@rocksbackpages.com

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"As comprehensive as a Google search, but with less insane liars."

LAUREN LAVERNE

"There's no finer website for the Archivalist Snob than **Rock's Backpages**."

SNOBSITE.COM

"**Rock's Backpages** is as important to my research in writing my books as Graham Greene."

ANDREW LOOG OLDHAM

"**Rock's Backpages** is an invaluable tool to remind me of what was really was going on in the '60s and '70s when I started out in this wonderful business."

The late DAVID ENTHOVEN

"Rock music journalism is a unique niche, and a peculiarly self-referential and exclusive one. The barrier to entry is low, especially in the era of file sharing, podcasting, and blogging, but with any given article, essay, polemic, or review, the observer maybe almost as interesting as the observed.

"Anyone can dance about architecture, but how did Lester Bangs or Ian MacDonald do it? Reading or listening to really good rock journalism is almost as much fun as experiencing the music itself: this guy really gets it, man. In a way, it's very satisfying to read an original turn of phrase and know that one is looking at tomorrow's rock cliché—as opposed to reading the same clichéd opinions about the same artists over and over again.

"To look back on the rock writing of yesteryear is to see how the attitudes of audiences, as well as those of musicians, have changed—and how they have remained the same."

GENEVIEVE WILLIAMS
Music Library Association

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