

An introduction to...

rock's backpages

The ultimate archive of music journalism...
THOUSANDS OF CLASSIC ARTICLES on artists from Aaliyah to ZZ Top,
by the finest rock writers of the last 50 years. Enter [library HERE...](#)

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Video: Johnny Marr talks about Rock's Backpages

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Writers' Blogs

THESE JUST IN... Carol Cooper lauds the late Cesária Évora; Wayne Robins selects his best

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Free on RBP



SOUL PROVIDER – R&B bard Bobby Womack, profiled and interviewed by John Abbey (Blue & Soul, 1970), Vivian Goldman (Sounds, 1976) and Paolo Hewitt (NME, 1985).

See all free articles!

Writers' Blogs



...and many more new articles in the library – see full list!

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Magazine Archive

Quick Search

New this week in the RBP Library

"I'm so SICK of telling people how long it takes me to put my lipstick on..."

- Dead Or Alive's Pete Burns to Adam Sweeting (1984).

PLUS pieces on:

- Neil Diamond (1966)
- Jimi Hendrix (1967)
- Joe South (1969)
- Neil Young (1970)
- Eno (1977)
- The B-52s (1979)
- S Star (1986)
- Billy Idol (1987)
- Woodstock '94 (1994)
- Roy Buchanan (1998)

Audio



MOGUL OF THE CANYON – Barney Hoskyns on the phone to David Geffen (2004)



Jimi Hendrix to Kurt Cobain: the complete RBP Audio library

Backpages 365
It happened today...

Jan 13 1864
Stephen Foster, revered as the "Father of American music", but ravaged by alcoholism, dies aged 37, at the North American Hotel, 30 Bowery, Lower East Side, New York City with exactly 38 cents to his name. His legacy of timeless songs includes Oh! Susanna, Dixie folks at home (aka Swanee River), Camptown Races, Beautiful Dreamer, My Old Kentucky Home and Old Black Joe. (1864)



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Best Databases 2011: Librarians Decide Which Databases Make the Grade

DECEMBER 7, 2011 BY SAVANNAH SCHROLL GLUZ 4 COMMENTS



RUNNER-UP
Rock's Backpages
Rock's Backpages; rocksbackpages.com

Covering five decades of history, the 20,000 articles, interviews, and reviews that comprise Rock's Backpages showcase rock journalism's renegade spirit. "Rock's Backpages represents the gold standard of rock writing," says Bruce Connolly. "It combines an irresistible lineup of classic fanzines—Punk, Trouser Press, Bomp, and Cream—with more mainstream staples of the popular music press, including *Spin* and *Rolling Stone*." British publications are also included, such as *New Musical Express*, *Uncut*, and *Mojo*, a magazine for which several members of the Backpages team have either edited or written. "Additional temptations," says Connolly, "include a discussion forum, audio interviews, writer profiles, and links to radio stations and rock-related websites." It's an essential resource for modern and contemporary music libraries and even cultural studies collections.

Digital advances
researchers, who
Dissertations, jour
internationally. Mor

Online rock journalism library **Rock's Backpages** at www.rocksbackpages.com is the largest database of rock journalism online, featuring—as of Spring 2012—20,000+ articles on thousands of artists from Elvis Presley to Eminem, the Rolling Stones to the Stone Roses, and the White Stripes to Amy Winehouse .

Rock's Backpages has been voted one of the **Best 25 Music Sites** by the *Observer*, who called it “a cultural resource for students and a tool for journalists”, and one of the **Best 40 Music Sites** by *The Daily Telegraph*. RBP was runner-up in Best Niche Resource category of the **Library Journal's Best Databases Awards of 2011**.

The screenshot shows the homepage of 'The Independent' news outlet. The main article is titled 'Ian Burrell: The archive of great music writing that shows paywalls can work'. The article text is partially visible, discussing Lester Bangs, a music journalist who pioneered the internet paywall model. The page includes a navigation bar with categories like NEWS, OPINION, ENVIRONMENT, SPORT, LIFE & STYLE, ARTS & ENTS, TRAVEL, MONEY, INDYBETS, BLOGS, and STUDENT. There is also a search bar and a 'Most Commented' sidebar with several article titles and their respective comment counts.

Rock's Backpages features the work of many of the world's best-known music journalists past and present, including **Lester Bangs, Nick Kent, Lenny Kaye, Nick Tosches, Carol Cooper, Dave Marsh, Ben Fong-Torres, Penny Valentine, Jon Savage, Charles Shaar Murray and Simon Reynolds.**

“For the price of a subscription,” wrote Ian Burrell in *The Independent* in October 2011, “users can access classic Lester Bangs, such as a 1973 profile of Iggy and the Stooges in *Stereo Review* in which he observed the emergence of glam fashions, or a 1972 write-up of Slade in *Phonograph Record* which was broadly complimentary despite describing Noddy Holder’s band as *the usual dull dorkoid pack of Limey jerks*”.



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 300 audio interviews, including classic conversations with **Jimi Hendrix**, **Mick Jagger**, **Marc Bolan**, **Morrissey**, **Little Richard**, **Leonard Cohen**, **Arthur Lee**, **Joni Mitchell**, **Johnny Cash**, **Kurt Cobain**, **Nick Cave** and **Tom Waits**.

Subscribers include over **130 academic institutions** worldwide, including **Harvard, Cornell, UCLA, NYU, Columbia, Princeton, Penn State, Syracuse, Wesleyan** and **Berklee College of Music** in the USA, and the Universities of **Edinburgh, Liverpool, Glasgow, Gloucester, Hull, Leeds, Northampton, Sheffield** and **Wolverhampton** in the United Kingdom. Our customers also include universities in Europe and Australasia, along with the **BBC** and the **Rock and Roll Hall of Fame**.

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Welcome to the Rock's Backpages Library

- Search all articles using **Quick Search** or the drop-down menus below, clicking on article titles to read them.
- Individual subscribers will be asked for username and password (unless already entered). All other articles are then available for reading.
- All content on the site is the property of Rock's Backpages and protected by copyright laws.

Please ensure that pop-ups are enabled for this site to allow you to access the library using the drop-down menus.

Quick Search

Search by ARTIST

Artists A - B

Artists C - D

Artists E - J

Artists K - N

Artists O - R

Artists S - T

Artists U - Z

Artists by number

Click for the full **A-Z** list of artists

Quick Search by WRITER

Writers

Click for the full **A-Z** list of writers

Quick Search by SUBJECT

Associated subjects and genres

Click for the full **A-Z** list of subjects

Quick Search by PUBLICATION

Publications

Click for the full **A-Z** list of publications

Detailed Search of the Library

Enter search text:

Find articles that contain:

Click for **Advanced Search**
(using the advanced search you can filter results by artist, subject/genre, writer, publication and date, in addition to your keyword search)

Free this week:

John Abbey introduces the newly-solo **Bobby Womack** (Blues & Soul, 1970)

Vivien Goldman spends a highly entertaining afternoon in the company of **Bobby Womack** (Sounds, 1976)

Never Mind The RB&Blocks, Here's The Soul Man: Paolo Hewitt meets **Bobby Womack** (NME, 1985)

Hilarious: Pete Dinklage encounters **The Artist Formerly Known As Prince** (Time Out, 1995)

Peter Pughies takes a detailed look at the life of **Nick Drake** (Observer Music Monthly, 2004)

Pete Pughies meets pop heartthrob **Paolo Nutini** (The Times, 2010)

See all free articles!

New to Subscribers:

AUDIO:
Barney Hoskyns on the phone to **David Goffen** (Rock's Backpages Audio, 2004)

FEATURES & INTERVIEWS:
David Griffiths buttonholes Stones svenangel **Andrew Loog Oldham** (Record Mirror, 1964)

Lucia Criscione interviews **Nail Diamond** (KRLA Best, 1966)

Chris Welch chats with **Jimmi Hendrix** (Melody Maker, 1967)

Derek Boltwood grills **Joe South** (Record Mirror, 1969)

Jacoba Atlas sums up **Neil Young** (Circuit, 1970)

Part 1 of Ian MacDonald's monumental **Eno** interview (NME, 1977)

Part 2 of Ian MacDonald's **Eno** interview (NME, 1977)

Paul Sexton catches up with **Heatwave** (Record Mirror, 1978)

Andy Schwartz introduces the **B-52s** (New York Rocker, 1979)

Adam Sweeting encounters **Dead Or Alive's Pete Burns** (Melody Maker, 1984)


Paolo Hewitt is unnerved by Brit

LIBRARY JOURNAL

Best Databases 2011: RBP wins runner-up award - Best Niche Product


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Video: Johnny Marr talks about Rock's Backpages


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Essential Reading: RBP's peerless Dylan anthology



Essential Reading: RBP's kindle release of the classic Glam primer



Essential RBP Listening: Mat Snow raps with Richard Thompson

“**Rock’s Backpages** has become an invaluable resource to students studying music, media and communication at the University of Leeds. On our popular music BA the archive provides material to support study on genre, politics and subcultures for essays at all levels. As a library for primary sources for the popular music journalism module I run it is perfect.”

– *Simon Warner*, Senior Teaching Fellow, School of Music, University of Leeds

“I have made extensive use of **Rock’s Backpages** over the past couple of years. Not only am I impressed by its ease and speed of access, but also by the way that it is constantly improving and updating its archive. I consider it an invaluable asset to any researcher or serious fan of the subject.”

– *Dr Ron Moy*, Senior Lecturer in Popular Music Studies, Liverpool John Moores University

“For anyone exploring the history of popular music, **Rock’s Backpages** is a goldmine. Its vast yet constantly expanding database of hard-to-find primary materials is high in quality, wide in scope, easy to access, and fully cross-referenced.

– *Dale Carter*, Associate Professor of American Studies, University of Aarhus, Denmark

“**Rock’s Backpages** has been an invaluable addition to the Syracuse University library. We teach a number of classes – ranging from the History of Rock survey to the Popular Music Studies seminar – where students have used **Rock’s Backpages** to aid with paper projects and presentations.”

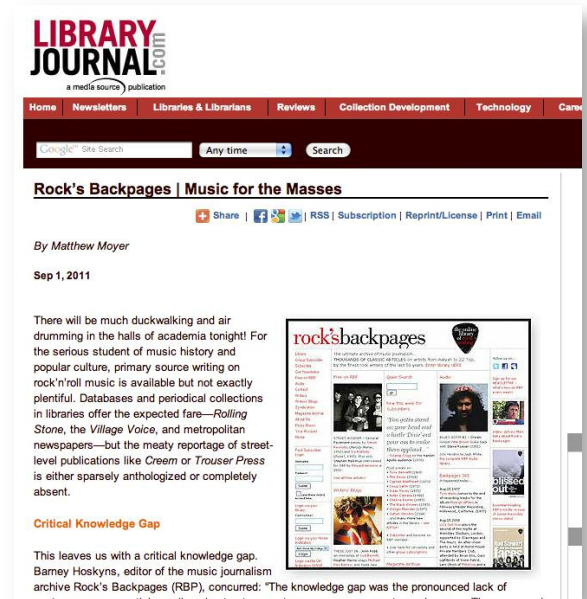
– *Theo Cateforis*, Assistant Professor of Music History and Cultures, Syracuse University

■ There are currently over twenty thousand articles on the site. These feature over two thousand artists and range from 500-word album (or concert) reviews to 10,000-word interviews and features.

■ The articles are full text, primary-source and fully searchable (by artist, date, genre, keyword etc.) including a sophisticated ‘advanced search’ option.

■ Written by over five hundred of the biggest names in rock journalism, they are taken from the widest possible range of publications in the US and UK: from *Creem* and *Rolling Stone*, and from to *NME* and *MOJO*. “The listing of magazines is colossal,” wrote *Library Journal* reviewer Matthew Moyer in September 2011. “I was personally staggered to see U.S. hair metal bible *RIP* and leftist journal *Ramparts* rubbing shoulders.”

■ The archive covers all genres of popular music from the 1950s to the present: from Abba to Zappa and Aaliyah to ZZ Top. There are, for example, 200 articles on Bob Dylan and 300 on the Rolling Stones.



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* (2005) and the Tom Waits biography *Lowside of the Road* (2009).

“There is nothing out there that is even remotely like **Rock's Backpages** for exploring the past 40 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 for Kindle and MP3 players. Kindle-edition eBooks include reissues of titles such as Simon Reynolds' *Blissed Out* and anthologies of articles

about Bob Dylan and Nirvana. Audio downloads include interviews with Jimi Hendrix and Joni Mitchell.



■ **Rock's Backpages** is available by annual subscription and pricing is based on the type, size and location 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.

■ **Rock's Backpages** provides usage statistics as COUNTER compliant level one. Auto-Citations are provided in the Harvard format. The resource is also discoverable via the EBSCO Discovery Service™ (EDS) and ProQuest's Summon™ discovery service.

■ Access authentication is available via the UK Access Management Federation (Shibboleth), IP Range, Library Card Login, 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

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*Please note trials are available for institutional use only, for the purpose of evaluation.

■ “As comprehensive as a Google search, but with less insane liars.” – *Lauren Laverne*

■ “There’s no finer website for the Archivist 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.” – *David Enthoven (Manager, Robbie Williams)*

■ “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 filesharing, 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.”

– *Williams, Genevieve, Music Library Association (Notes- Volume 63, Number 1, September 2006, pp. 155-157)*



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