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[Review of] Rock Source Archive

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Internet Resource

Rock Source Archive.

<http://www.rocksourcearchive.com/>

[Visited May'12] British rock journalist Johnny Black (contributor to *Q* and *Mojo*, among other magazines) worked with Discovery Records, a specialty music mail-order business in England, to produce this "day by day history of popular music." Black is also the coauthor of *Rock and Pop Timeline* (2003) and a contributor to *Rock's Backpages* <http://rocksbackpages.com/writer.html?WriterID=black> (CH, Jul'08, 45-5910). Starting in the summer of 2009 as a Wiltshire, UK-based resource, *Rock Source Archive* now presents Facts of the Day from popular music history (including jazz and the blues) from the 19th century onward, including entries focused under given years and decades, cities, instruments, and major artists (e.g., Michael Jackson, Bob Dylan). The site's searching capabilities are offered within these groupings, but no general search across the entire database is available. Entries include links to various external sites, including artist and other informational websites, e.g., *Biography Channel* <http://www.biography.com> (CH, Apr'06, 43-4358), *YouTube*, and *Wikipedia* (CH, Mar'06, 43-3736), for information about artists, songs, publications, venues, and news stories.

Rock Source Archive can be followed on *Twitter*: @rocksourceTweet. Links from any given entry go to a wide variety of sources, and sometimes are no longer valid (e.g., the *YouTube* link to the Michael Jackson/Stevie Wonder duet "Get It" leads to a page announcing the removal of the video from *YouTube*). Black is a careful journalist and has amassed a wide range of interesting facts available by date. Some links, particularly those to *Rock's Backpages*, provide useful critical commentary. However, the limitations of the search engine, the random variety of the linked sources, and the rigidity of a chronological presentation make this an interesting but limited tool for academic collections. The site works well on various browsers across Windows and Macintosh platforms. **Summing Up:** Optional. Lower-level undergraduates and general audience.

--R. A. Aken, University of Kentucky

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REFERENCE – Humanities

Rock's Backpages

Choice July 2008 45:45-5910; doi:10.5860/CHOICE.45-5910

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Biography.com

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