

## Public Library is Loaded with Material on Rock Music

If you are like me, sometimes you just feel the need to rock. Fortunately, the Bartholomew County Public Library can help you in several ways. Here's how:

Let's say you've decided to form your own rock band. What's next? You need a name for your band of course! I suggest you consult "**The Band Name Book**" by Noel Hudson (2008). This uniquely written book organizes its list of names of famous (and not-so-famous) bands by categories such as "The Plants," "The Human Body," "Building a Better World," and "Enough About Me, Let's Talk About My Hair." A band's name is given, followed by a brief story behind the genesis of the name. Each category features a column called "Names Still Available" with suggestions for new band names. If you're looking for a food related name, the book suggests perhaps Rage Against the Tangerine or Velveeta Underground.

Your band now has a name, but you are slowly realizing that your Guitar Hero skills are not translating to real guitars and drums. Perhaps you should consult "**Song Writing: A Complete Guide to the Craft**" by Stephen Citron (2008). This guide begins with a crash course on creating songs, covering musical chords, rhythm, and lyric rhyming. The book finishes with an introduction to "the industry" with information about getting your songs recorded, language of the industry, and copyright laws. With the introduction to songwriting fresh in your head, your next step should be to consult instrument playing guides here at the Public Library, such as **The Drummer's Bible** by Mick Berry (2004) or **Play Guitar in 10 Easy Lessons** by Jon Buck (2006).

If your band is like most in rock history, there will probably be some rough patches. The guitar player wants to try a "new sound" that sounds horrible. The bass player is spending more time on his hair than practicing. The drummer ate all the Cheetos. You may even be ensconced in a feud with a rival band. If you read the book "**Rock and Roll Cage Match: Music's Greatest Rivalries Decided**" by Sean Manning (2008), you'll find that you'd have plenty of company. This guide details some of the most famous rivalries in music history and, in some cases, chooses a winner. A wide variety of music is represented here, from the Beatles' feuds with themselves to more modern feuds such as Trent Reznor versus Marilyn Manson or Nas versus Jay-Z.

After the inevitable band breakup, you can read up on the history of rock 'n' roll. Recent releases about legendary rock bands include the **AC/DC Encyclopedia** (2008), **Hammer of the Gods: The Led Zeppelin Saga** by Stephen Davis (2008), **Van Halen: A Visual History** by Neil Zlozower (2008), and the **Guns 'n' Roses biography** by Stephen Davis (2008). The Public Library also has more genre-specific overviews such as **Punk: The Whole Story** by Mark Blake (2008) and **American Hair Metal** by Steven Blush (2006).

Finally, be sure to check out our music CDs collection in the mezzanine level of the library. The Popular Music collection includes a wide range of rock CDs, including 2008-2009 releases by bands such as Nine Inch Nails, Weezer, and Radiohead. One final note to non-rockers: the library's collection of books and CDs also includes great coverage of other musical genres, like country, pop, jazz, or classical. But when you need to rock, the Public Library is there for you.

***Tyler Munn is a Reference Librarian at Bartholomew County Public Library.***