



Microgenres

Memory, Community, and Preserving the Present

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Resource Description Librarian

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Brief Overview

- Microgenres as a cultural phenomenon.
- Metadata description for musical microgenres in a library environment using controlled vocabularies and resources.
- Challenges and resources for identifying and acquiring microgenre musical sound recordings.
- This presentation will focus on chopped and screwed music, vaporwave music, and ambient music.



Microgenre

noun

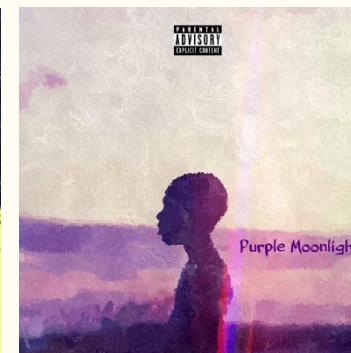
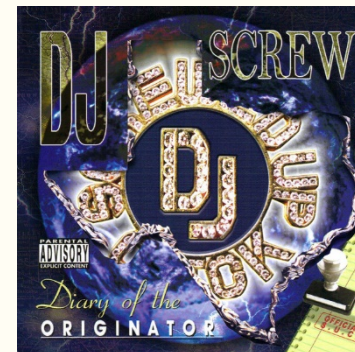
/mi · cro · gen · re/

1. A hyper-specific subcategory of artistic, musical, or literary composition characterized that is by a particular style, form, or content.
2. A flexible, provisional, and temporary category used to establish micro-connections among cultural artifacts, drawn from a range of historical periods found in literature, film, music, television, and the performing and fine arts.
3. A specialized or niche genre; either machine-classified or retroactively established through analysis.

Examples of Musical Microgenres

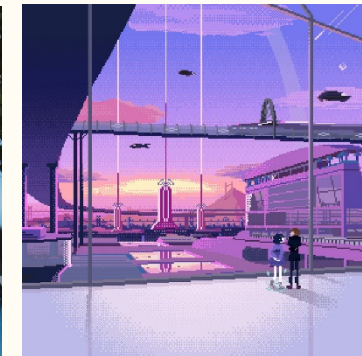
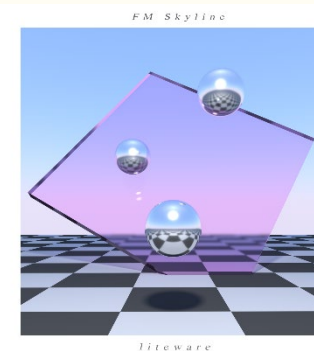
Hyper-specific

- Chopped and screwed music



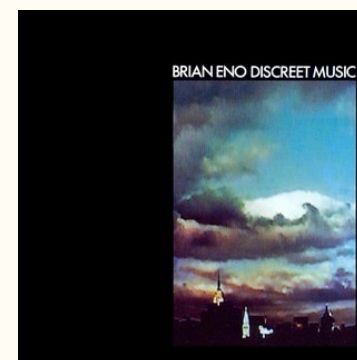
Flexible, provisional, and temporary

- Vaporwave music



Specialized or niche

- Ambient music



Ambient Music



Circa, *Wildlife Addendum*, by Warmth, 2019, Archives. Genre tags: ambient, idm, drone, dub techno, electronic, electronica.

- Ambient music is a broad microgenre encompassing a breath of natural sounds, acoustic and electronic instruments, and utilizes sampling and/or looping material to generate repetitive soundscapes.
- Earlier works from Erik Satie’s *musique d’ameublement* (furniture music) to the *musique concrete* works of Éliane Radigue, Steve Reich’s tape pieces, and synthesizer albums of Wendy Carlos are all precursors of ambient music.
- The term ambient music was coined by composer Brian Eno upon the release of his album, “Discreet Music,” in 1975. Eno later coined the term “generative music” in 1995 and published “Generative music 1” with SSEYO Koan Software in 1996.
- Subgenres include: Lowercase, dark ambient and drone music.
- Established terms: Ambient music \$2 lcgft ; Ambient (Electronica) \$2 lcgft.
- Related terms: Background music, Environmental music, Minimal music, New age music, Soundscapes (Music); see also Improvisations (Music), Aleatory music.



The Bleeding Edge of Ambient Music

- [Listen to Wikipedia](#)
 - Algorithmically generated music based on sounds from changes to Wikipedia articles in real time.
 - Based on Maximillian Laumeister's BitListen using D3.js (visuals) and HowlerJS (audio).
 - Created by Hatnone, a volunteer-run design studio, Stephen LaPorte and Mahmoud Hashemi.
- Background noise generators:
 - [Coffitivity](#) replicates the soundscapes of coffee shops, cafeterias, and restaurants.
 - [I Miss the Office](#) by Kids Creative Agency features an interactive office noise generator.
- Generative music apps:
 - [Bloom: 10 worlds](#), Brian Eno co-created with Peter Chilvers, uses tactile inputs produce generative music.
 - [Reflection](#) is a generative music app that perpetually generates music that cannot repeat.
 - [Calm](#) self-describes itself as a "mediation, sleep and relaxation app."
 - [Endel](#) develops "personalized sound environments to help you focus, relax, and sleep."
- Additional reading:
 - "How generative music works: a perspective" via [Teropa](#)
 - "Introduction to generative music" by Alex Bainter via [Medium](#).
 - "On and on and on: a guide to generative electronic music" By Samuel Tornow via [Bandcamp](#).



Wildlife : Addendum / Warmth



100	0		Warmth \$c (Musician), \$e composer...
245	1	0	Wildlife : \$b addendum / \$c Warmth.
500			"Written, produced and remixed by Agustín Mena"-- Container.

NAR	100	0	Warmth \$c (Musician)
	400	1	Mena, Agustín

650		0	Ambient music.
650		0	Electronica (Music)
650		0	Remixes.

655		7	Electronica (Music) \$2 lcgft.
655		7	Remixes. \$2 lcgft.

Chopped and Screwed Music

- Originated in South Houston in the early 1990's.
- Created by Houston based DJ Screw (Robert E. Davis, Jr., 1971-2000).
- Identifies with cultural iconography of late 80's-early 90's Houston, and more broadly Southern rap culture.
- Historically chopped and screwed music is a regional subgenre of Southern rap music.
- Chopped and screwed music is principally released as authorized or unauthorized remixes of singles and albums.
- Remixes (Music), Chopped and screwed (Music) \$2 lcgft.

DJ Screw on the mixer and turntables.
DJ Screw Photographs and Memorabilia
Special Collections, University of Houston Libraries



David S. Holloway/CNN



Purple drink, Medium



DJ Screw Making a Screw Tape

from Soldiers United for Cash (documentary film)

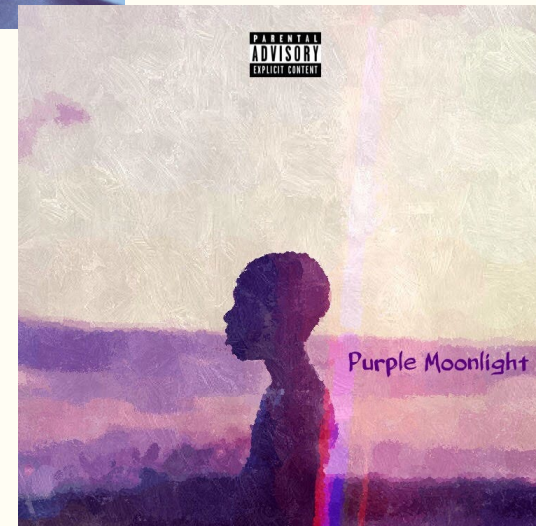
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FSmMoVf1j_8

Chopped and Screwed Music in Popular Culture Today

- Cultural iconography persists in various forms of commercial and DIY media.
- Anthony Bourdain's visit to Houston prominently features Houston's Hip-Hop scene in his CNN "[Parts Unknown](#)" series.
- Moonlight (Motion Picture) directed by Barry Jenkins with music by Nicholas Britell released in 2016.
 - Soundtrack features a score inspired by and incorporating a chopped and screwed sound.
 - Success of the film generated renewed enthusiasm and interest in chopped and screwed music.

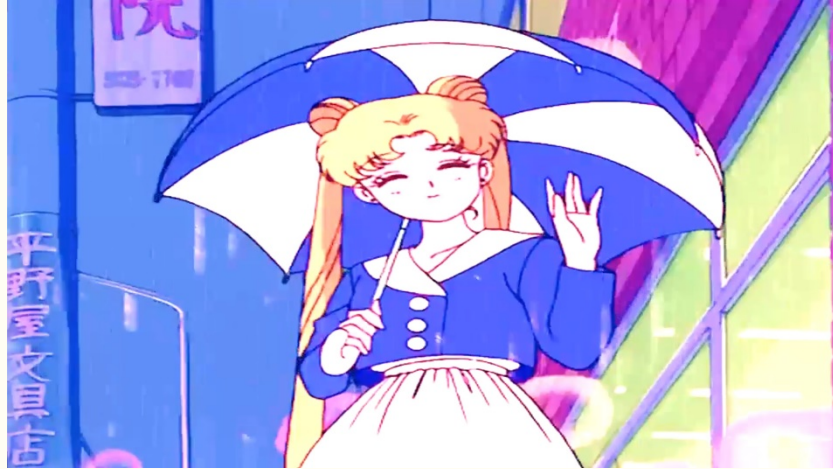


Sizzurp vinyl sticker by Ben Frost



Authenticity in the Rap Community

The Specter of “Slowed + Reverb” aka “Gentrified Chopped and Screwed”



[Sailor Moon image] bby kodie - where it doesn't rain (slowed + reverb)
via Slater's YouTube Channel

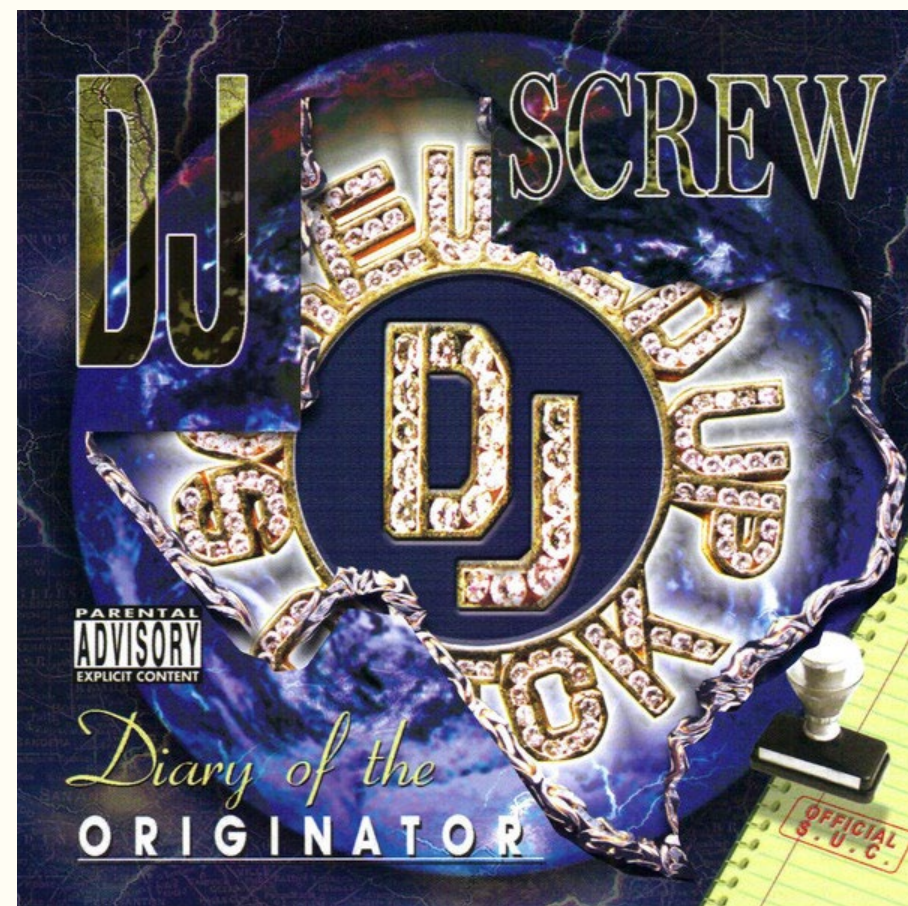


Lo-Fi Girl via Wikipedia (by Juan Pablo Machado for ChilledCow)

- Jarylun Moore, aka “Slater,” is attributed to creating “slowed + reverb” music, a DIY remix style popularized via playlists on YouTube since 2016/2017.
- The development of this remix style coincided with the release of “Moonlight” along with a broader increase in chopped and screw’s appeal.
- In August 2020 a now infamous [TikTok video](#) describes “slowed + reverb” as a “new” remix style created by Slater.
- The remix style’s [uncanny similarity](#) to chopped and screwed music, and the TikTok’s omission of DJ Screw and the Screwed-Up Click drew immediate condemnation on [social media](#) led by Houstonians.
- However, Slater, a Black Houstonian himself, [asked](#) for the video to be pulled from [social media](#).
- He later spoke to [Pitchfork](#) saying his remixes were inspired by DJ Screw.

DJ Screw Diary of the Originator CD's

- Identified sound recordings lacking appropriate Chopped and screwed (Music) LCGFT term.
- 351 commercially released “chapter” CD's.
- UH has 306 of the chapters in the [Houston Hip Hop Research Collection](#).
- Series statement: DJ Screw, \$d 1971-2000. \$t Diary of the Originator ; \$v chapter #.
- Note the “official S.U.C” stamp on logo.
- Unique identifiers:
 - 511 0 _Recordings performed by various artists, manipulated by DJ Screw.
 - 710 2_ DJ Screw "Diary of the Originator" CDs.



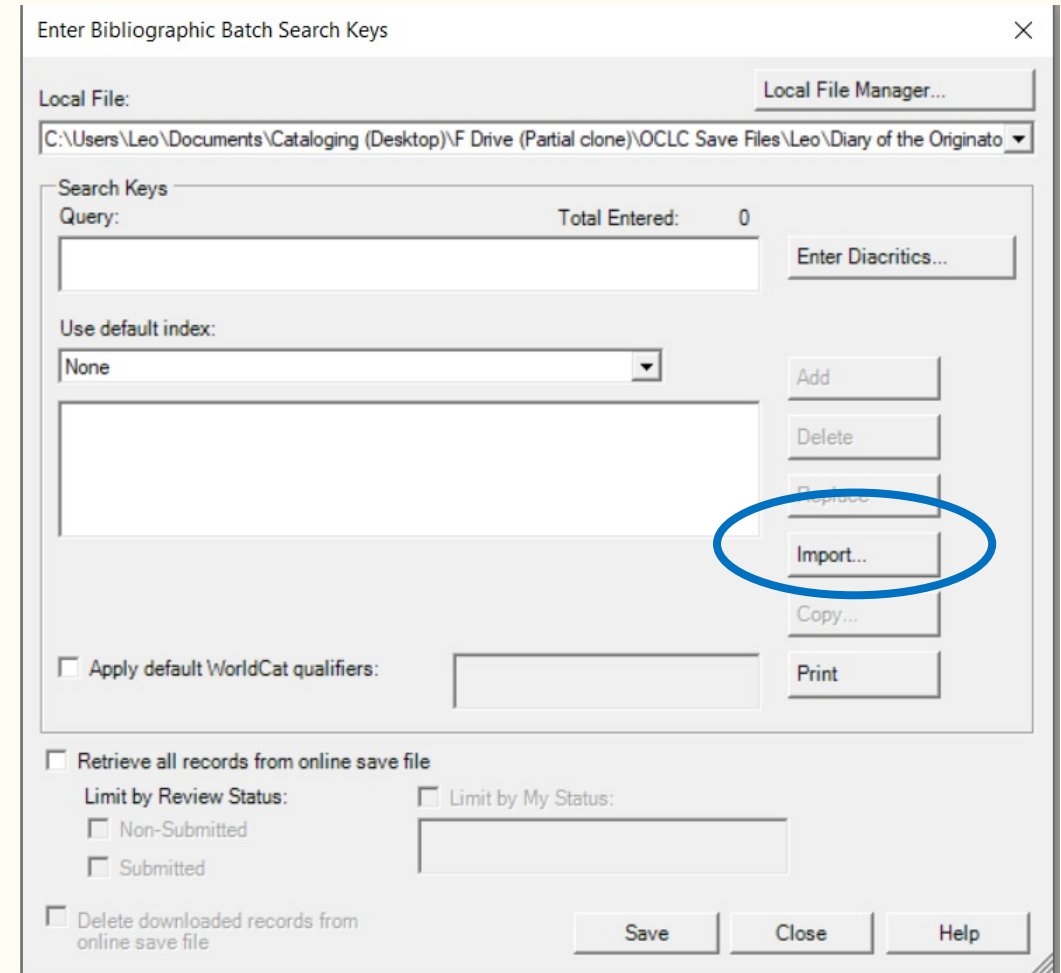


MarcEdit OCLC API Integration for Batch Upgrading Bibliographic Record

- Batch upgrading MARC records using MarcEdit.
- Replacing master records in OCLC using the OCLC API integration in MarcEdit.
- Exporting upgraded MARC records to local catalog.
- Recommended reading/viewing:
 - “Batch processing in the client” from OCLC Connexion Client [Guides](#).
 - OCLC integration information from Terry Reese’s MarcEdit [website](#).
 - “Automating tasks” from the University of Illinois MarcEdit [LibGuide](#).
 - “Me & the WorldCat metadata API” by Kelley McGrath, Metadata Management Librarian, University of Oregon ([slides](#) & [video](#)).

Batch Upgrading Bibliographic Records in MarcEdit using Tasks

- Pulling records into MarcEdit:
 - Z39.50 integration with local catalog.
 - OCLC search API function if accessible.
 - Import database file from OCLC Connexion.
- Searching/import records in OCLC Connexion:
 - Batch -> Enter Bibliographic Search Keys
 - Import search keys from a delimited text file.
 - [Input](#) batch search keys manually.
 - Searching in WorldCat for a series statement or other unique identifier.
 - Z39.50 integration with local catalog.

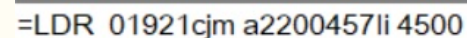


The screenshot shows the 'Enter Bibliographic Batch Search Keys' dialog box. At the top, there is a 'Local File:' section with a 'Local File Manager...' button and a file path dropdown showing 'C:\Users\Leo\Documents\Cataloging (Desktop)\F Drive (Partial clone)\OCLC Save Files\Leo\Diary of the Originato'. Below this is a 'Search Keys' section with a 'Query:' text box, a 'Total Entered: 0' counter, and an 'Enter Diacritics...' button. A 'Use default index:' dropdown is set to 'None'. To the right of these fields are buttons for 'Add', 'Delete', 'Import...', 'Copy...', and 'Print'. The 'Import...' button is circled in blue. At the bottom, there are checkboxes for 'Apply default WorldCat qualifiers:', 'Retrieve all records from online save file', 'Limit by Review Status:' (with sub-options 'Non-Submitted' and 'Submitted'), 'Limit by My Status:', and 'Delete downloaded records from online save file'. The bottom right corner has 'Save', 'Close', and 'Help' buttons.

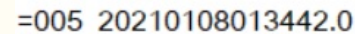


Getting Started with MarcEdit

- Import save file from OCLC Connexion into MarcEdit.
- Use MarcTools and select “MarcBreaker” to convert the save file into a MARC mnemonic file.
- Next open MarcEditor and open the newly created MARC mnemonic file.
- From here I created a list of task to be performed to carry out the metadata transformation.



Add 007 (if missing)



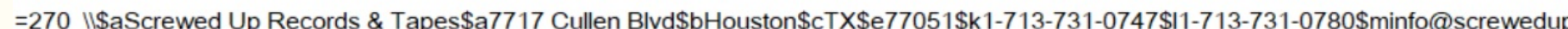
Edit field 008



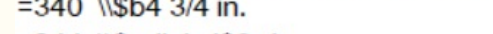
Subfield edit: \$e author to
remix artist



Subfield remove 300 \$b



Build new field
390 \\\$a{344\$a}\$2rdatr



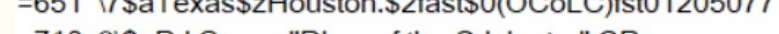
Task list “505 Enhance”



Add 655\7 (if missing)



Subfield edit 710 \$5 TxHU



=710 2\\$\aHouston Hip Hop Recording Artists Collection.

=994 \\\$aC0\$bTXH

Add 007 (if missing) 

Subfield edit LDR 


Subfield edit: \$e author to
remix artist ➡

Subfield remove 300 \$b 

1. Build new field
39X \\\$a{3XX\$a}\$2rdaXX

1. Delete 34X fields

2. Swap 39X \$a2 to 34X \$a2

Task list “505 Enhance” 

Add 655\7 (if missing) 

Tasks:										
ADD	007	sd\fsngnmmned	101							
EDITFIELD	007		0	s	4:1					
EDITFIELD	008		0	2004	11:4					
EDITFIELD	008		0	t	6:1					
RDAHELPER	1 1 1 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 1 1 0 1 1 0 eng 1									
SUBFIELD_EDIT	100	e	author	remix artist.	0 0					
EDITFIELD	245	ward	0	Ward						
SUBFIELD_EDIT	300	a	sound disc	audio disc	0 0					
SUBFIELD_REMOVE	300	b			0 0					
EDITFIELD	300	:	0	;						
buildnewfield	=390	\\\$a{344\$a}\$2rdatr	False	False	True	False				
buildnewfield	=391	\\\$b{344\$b}\$2rdarm	False	False	True	False				
buildnewfield	=394	\\\$a{347\$a}\$2rdaft	False	False	True	False				
buildnewfield	=395	\\\$b{347\$b}	False	False	True	False				
DELETE	380	0	False	False	False	False				
DELETE	344	0	False	False	False	False				
DELETE	347	0	False	False	False	False				
SWAP	390	a,2	344	a,2	0	0	1	0	0	
SWAP	391	b,2	344	b,2	0	0	1	0	0	
SWAP	394	a,2	347	a,2	0	0	1	0	0	
SWAP	395	b	347	b	0	0	1	0	0	
ADD	344	\\\$gstereo\$2rdacpc	108							
SUBFIELD_EDIT	344	b	optical	0 0						
DELETE	340	0	False	False	False	False				
ADD	382	11\$arapper\$2lcmpt	108							
SWAP	520		505	00	0	0	1	0	0	
DELETE	500	Brief record.	0	False	False	False	False			
DELETE	380	0	False	False	False	False				
DELETE	500	Compact disc.	0	False	False	False	False			
TASK_LIST	505	Enhance	C:\Users\Leo\AppData\Roaming\marcedit7\macros\tasksfile-2021_01_08_153435595.txt							
SUBFIELD_EDIT	505	t	i	l	0 0					
ADD	655	\\7\$aChopped and screwed (Music)\$2lcgft.			100					
ADD	655	\\7\$aRap (Music)\$2lcgft.			0					
ADD	655	\\7\$aRemixes (Music)\$2lcgft.			100					



LDR 17:1 to | (blank) →

Added \$e remix artist. →

Subfield remove 300 \$b →

Added 344/347 w/ RDA registry codes

Added 382 11 rapper \$2 lcmpt →

Enhanced 505 00 w/ \$t, \$r →

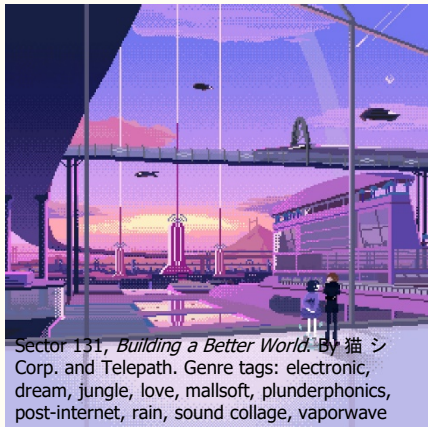
655\7 Chopped and screwed (Music)
\$2 lcgft. →

Added 710 \$5 TxHU →

```
=LDR 01921cjm a2200457 i 4500
=003 OCoLC
=005 20210108013442.0
=007 sd\fsngnn|m|eu|
=008 170410t20042004txuppn\leng'd
=040 \\\$aTXH$beng$erda$cTXH$dOCLCF$dOCLCQ$dTXH$dOCLCA
=024 1\\$a829711001225
=035 \\\$a(OCoLC)982059870
=043 \\\$an-us-tx
=049 \\\$aTXHU
=100 0\\$aDJ Screw,$d1971-2000,$eremix artist.
=245 10\\$aJune 27th /$cDJ Screw.
=264 1\\$aHouston, TX :$bScrewed Up Records and Tapes,$c[2004]
=264 4\\$c©2004
=270 \\\$aScrewed Up Records & Tapes$a7717 Cullen Blvd$bHouston$cTX$e77051$k1-713-731-0747$I1-713-731-0780$minfo@screwedup
=300 \\\$a2 audio discs ;$c4 3/4 in.
=336 \\\$aperformed music$bprm$2rdacontent
=337 \\\$aaudio$bs$2rdamedia
=338 \\\$aaudio disc$bsd$2rdacarrier
=344 \\\$adigital$2datr
=344 \\\$boptical$2darm
=344 \\\$gstereo$2dacpc
=347 \\\$aaudio file$2rdaft
=347 \\\$bCD audio
=382 11\\$arapper$2lcmpt
=490 1\\$aDiary of the Originator / DJ Screw ;$vchapter 12
=500 \\\$aTitle from disc label.
=505 00\\$tIntro /$rIce T -- $tCrossroads /$rBone -- $tAll about u /$rPAC -- $tInst. /$rFreshes MC -- $tGetting it /$rToo Short -- $t187 /$rNo Limit --
=511 0\\$aRecordings performed by various artists, manipulated by DJ Screw.
=500 \\\$aCommissioned for Big DeMo's birthday.
=650 0\\$aRap (Music)$zTexas$zHouston.
=650 0\\$aRemixes.
=650 17\\$aRap (Music)$2fast$0(OCoLC)fst01089951
=650 17\\$aRemixes.$2fast$0(OCoLC)fst01094443
=651 17\\$aTexas$zHouston.$2fast$0(OCoLC)fst01205077
=655 17\\$aRemixes (Music)$2lcgft.
=655 17\\$aChopped and screwed (Music)$2lcgft.
=655 17\\$aRap (Music)$2lcgft.
=710 2\\$aDJ Screw "Diary of the Originator" CDs.$5TxHU
=710 2\\$aHouston Hip Hop Recording Artists Collection.$5TxHU
=800 0\\$aDJ Screw,$d1971-2000.$tDiary of the Originator ;$vchapter 12.
=994 \\\$aC0$bTXH
```


Vaporwave Music

- The term vaporwave broadly describes a musical, visual and cultural aesthetic which is often grounded in nostalgic iconography. This commonly includes references and abstractions of 1980s-early 2000s popular music, visual and performance art, politics and consumer culture.
- Vaporwave music is a microgenre within electronic music. Vaporwave music principally utilizes sampling, plunderphonics, and sound collage (both plunderphonics and instances of music concrete).
- Subgenres include: [Dreampunk](#), [Future funk](#), Hardvapour, [Mallsoft](#), and Slushwave.
- Related LESH & LCGFT: Electronica (Music), Ambient (Electronica), Psychedelic rock music, Synthpop (Music), Noise pop (Music).
- Note: Vaporwave music can be easy to misidentify since it utilizes [plunderphonics](#) and hypnagogic collage. Vaporwave often incorporates the following genres by way of sampling: Chopped and screwed (Music), Glitch music, Jazz, Lounge music, Shoegaze music, and Background music.



Livin' loose, *Slide*, by George Clanton; August 17, 2018. (genre tags: electronic, chillwave, futurepop, vaporwave)



Vaporwave is a Portal

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1zSM14XBwC8>

“News at 11” by 猫 シ Corp. (Cat System Corp.)



Tentative “Vaporwave (Music)” LCGFT Term

- Submit potential terms to the [SACO Music Funnel](#) (MLA Cataloging and Metadata Committee)
- Please follow the instructions on the website, but don’t hesitate to ask a colleague if you need help!
- Alternatively use the Music Vocabularies Suggestion Box via [Google Forms](#).

155			Vaporwave (Music)
555			g \$a Electronica (Music)
670			Work cat.: 1228910426: FM Skyline. Liteware, 2020.
670			Work cat.: 1228905754: George Clanton. Slide, 2020.
670			Wikipedia, viewed Jan. 1, 2021: \$b (vaporwave (the name derives from "vaporware," a term for commercial software that is announced but never released) is a microgenre of electronic music; it is defined partly by its slowed-down, chopped and screwed samples of smooth jazz, elevator, R&B, and lounge music from the 1980s and 1990s; the style was pioneered by producers such as James Ferraro, Daniel Lopatin, and Ramona Xavier, who each used various pseudonyms; a wealth of subgenres and offshoots emerged, such as future funk, mallsoft, and hardvapour)
...			...



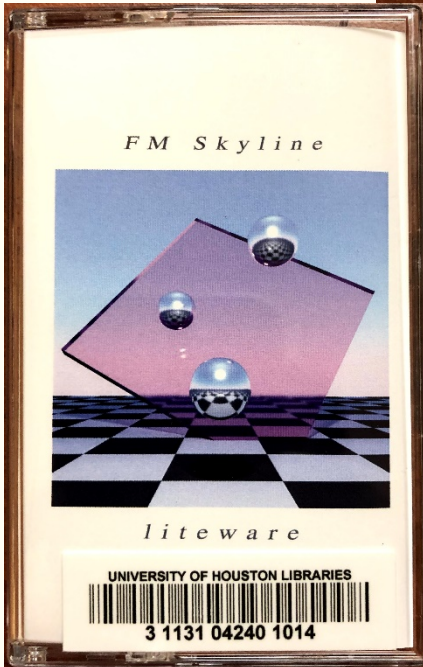
Electric Independence:

Daniel Lopatin (Oneohtrix Point Never) Interview on Motherboard

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E0RAmNU5Es8>

Liteware / FM Skyline

Audiocassette from 100% Electronica



100	0		FM Skyline, \$e composer, \$e performer.
245	1	0	Liteware / \$c FM Skyline.
500			"Composed & recorded by FM Skyline"— Container.

NAR	100	0		FM Skyline
	500	1		\$w r \$i Real identity: \$a Curry, Pete

500			Vaporwave music.
650		0	Electronica (Music)
650		0	Synthpop (Music)

655		7	Electronica (Music) \$2 lcgft.
655		7	Synthpop (Music) \$2 lcgft.



Slide / George Clanton

"Blue eye" vinyl from 100% Electronica



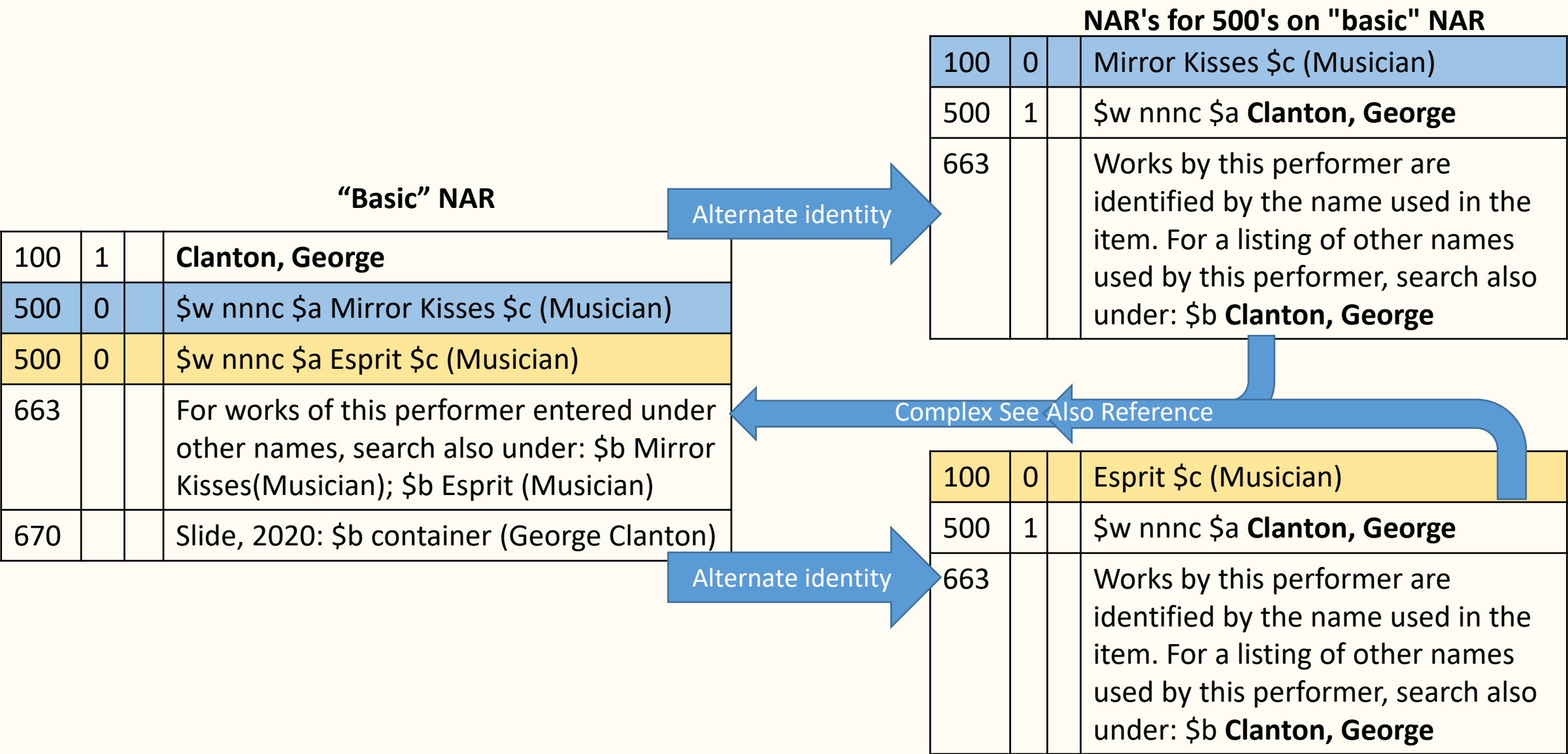
100	1		Clanton, George, \$e composer, \$e performer.
245	1	0	Slide / \$c George Clanton.
500			"Blue eye vinyl"--Publisher's website.

NAR	100	1		Clanton, George
	500	0		\$w nnnc \$a Mirror Kisses \$c (Musician)
	500	0		\$w nnnc \$a Esprit \$c (Musician)

500			Vaporwave music.
650		0	Electronica (Music)
650		0	Synthpop (Music)

655		7	Electronica (Music) \$2 lcgft.
655		7	Synthpop (Music) \$2 lcgft.

Pseudonyms Used By George Clanton





Building a Better World / 猫 シ Corp. & t e l e p a t h

"Glass master '1998' CD" from Hiraeth Records



100	0		Cat System Corp., \$e composer, \$e performer, \$e producer.
245	1	0	Building a better world / \$c Nekoshi Corp. & t e l e p a t h.
700	0		Telepath \$c (Musician), \$e composer, \$e performer, \$e producer, \$e mixing engineer.

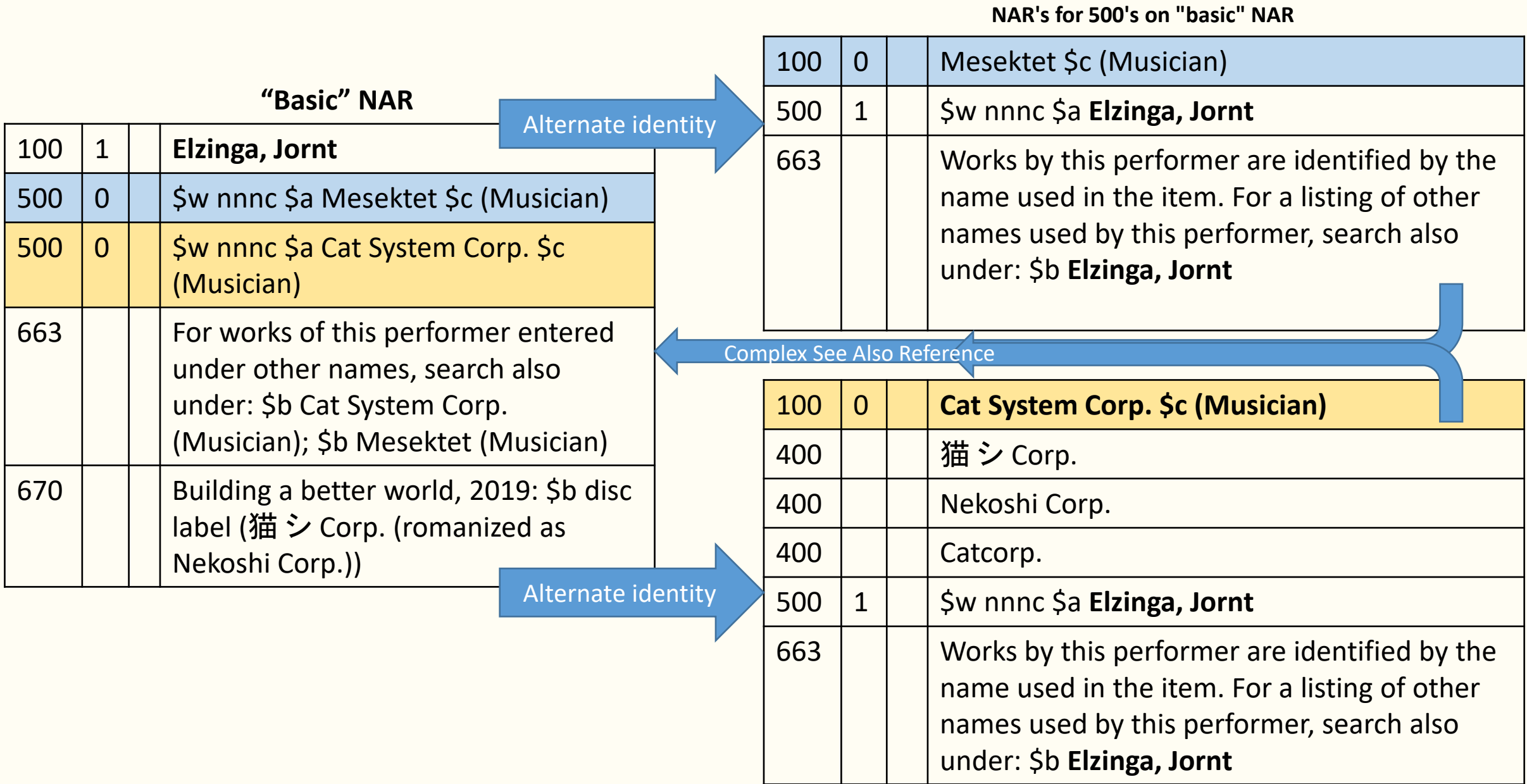
505	0		Mezame = Awakening -- Dawn over the metropolis -- Sector 131 -- Lost promises -- Sekai no hate = End of the world -- Building a better world -- Hiraeth : V -- Shinka = Evolution -- A new life awaits you -- Into the dream : (bonus track).
-----	---	--	---

500			Vaporwave music.
650		0	Electronica (Music)
650		0	Ambient music.

655		7	Electronica (Music) \$2 lcgft.
655		7	Ambient music (Electronica) \$2 lcgft.



Pseudonyms Used By Jornt Elzinga





Sick & panic : first mix / Macintosh Plus

"12 [inch] Picture disc" vinyl from Chronos and Vermillion



100	0		Macintosh Plus \$c (Musician), \$d 1992- \$e composer, \$e performer.
245	1	0	Sick & panic : \$b first mix / \$c Macintosh Plus.
500			"12 [inch] picture disc"--Publisher's website.

500			"All music + artwork by Vektroid"--Container.
-----	--	--	---

NAR	100	0	Macintosh Plus \$c (Musician), \$d 1992
	500	1	\$w nnnc \$a Xavier, Ramona Andra, \$d 1992-

500			Vaporwave music.
650		0	Electronica (Music)
650		0	Noise pop (Music)

655		7	Electronica (Music) \$2 lcgft.
655		7	Noise pop (Music) \$2 lcgft.



COPYRIGHT 2019-2020 CHRONOS & VERMILION
ALL MUSIC + ARTWORK BY VEKTROID



Pseudonyms Used By Ramona Xavier

“Basic” NAR

100	1		Xavier, Ramona Andra, \$d 1992-
500	0		\$w nnnc \$a Vektroid \$c (Musician), \$d 1992-
500	0		\$w nnnc \$a Macintosh Plus \$c (Musician), \$d 1992-
500	0		\$w nnnc \$a Sacred Tapestry \$c (Musician), \$d 1992-
500	0		\$w nnnc \$a New Dreams Ltd. \$c (Musician), \$d 1992-
663			For works of this performer entered under other names, search also under: Xavier Ramona Andra, 1992- \$b Macintosh Plus, (Musician), 1992- \$b Sacred Tapestry (Musician), 1992- \$b New Dreams Ltd. (Musician), 1992-

Alternate identity*

Alternate identity

Alternate identity

Alternate Identity

NAR's for 500's on "basic" NAR

100	0		Vektroid \$c (Musician), \$d 1992-
500	1		\$w nnnc \$a Xavier, Ramona Andra, \$d 1992-
100	0		Macintosh Plus \$c (Musician), \$d 1992-
500	1		\$w nnnc \$a Xavier, Ramona Andra, \$d 1992-
100	0		Sacred Tapestry \$c (Musician), \$d 1992-
500	1		\$w nnnc \$a Xavier, Ramona Andra, \$d 1992-
100	0		New Dreams Ltd. \$c (Musician), \$d 1992-
500	1		\$w nnnc \$a Xavier, Ramona Andra, \$d 1992-

Complex See Also Reference

Main entry

663			Works by this performer are identified by the name used in the item. For a listing of other names used by this performer, search also under: \$b Xavier, Ramona Andra, 1992-
-----	--	--	--

Using Vektroid as Basic NAR For Pseudonyms

“Basic” NAR

100	0	Vektroid \$c (Musician), \$d 1992-
500	1	\$w nnnc \$a Xavier, Ramona Andra, \$d 1992-
500	0	\$w nnnc \$a Macintosh Plus \$c (Musician), \$d 1992-
500	0	\$w nnnc \$a Sacred Tapestry \$c (Musician), \$d 1992-
500	0	\$w nnnc \$a New Dreams Ltd. \$c (Musician), \$d 1992-
663		For works of this performer entered under other names, search also under: Xavier Ramona Andra, 1992- \$b Macintosh Plus, (Musician), 1992- \$b Sacred Tapestry (Musician), 1992- \$b New Dreams Ltd. (Musician), 1992-

Actual identity

Alternate identity

Alternate identity

Alternate Identity

NAR's for 500's on "basic" NAR

100	1	Xavier, Ramona Andra, \$d 1992-
500	0	\$w nnnc \$a Vektroid \$c (Musician), \$d 1992-
100	0	Macintosh Plus \$c (Musician), \$d 1992-
500	0	\$w nnnc \$a Vektroid \$c (Musician), \$d 1992-
100	0	Sacred Tapestry \$c (Musician), \$d 1992-
500	0	\$w nnnc \$a Vektroid \$c (Musician), \$d 1992-
100	0	New Dreams Ltd. \$c (Musician), \$d 1992-
500	0	\$w nnnc \$a Vektroid \$c (Musician), \$d 1992-

Complex See Also Reference

Main entry

663		Works by this performer are identified by the name used in the item. For a listing of other names used by this performer, search also under: \$b Vektroid (Musician), 1992-
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Challenges with Acquiring Sound Recordings of Microgenres

- Mixtape culture still predominates distribution for chopped and screwed music:
 - Mid-late 1980's: Rap mixtapes originated as homemade cassettes, which were sold and shared.
 - Mid-late 1990's: DJ Screw's earliest tapes, "screw" or "grey" tapes, produced and duplicated on cassette at home. Later recordings and compilations were commercially released and distributed on CD nationally.
 - Early 2000's: Popular use of early digital download sites such as Napster, Limewire, and Kazaa increased distribution. DJ Screw passes in 2000, with numerous posthumous releases over the decade.
- Since the 2010's sound recordings, including mixtapes-as-playlists, are often released exclusively on streaming platforms such as Spotify, Soundcloud, YouTube, and DatPiff. However, the opaque nature of several platform's DRM management and low-yield revenue streams for artists has proven hostile for emerging acts. Note, [Bandcamp Fridays](#) (1st Friday every month) allow musicians to take in 100% of sales.
- Vaporwave and ambient releases are especially difficult to acquire due to limited production. Digital distribution and copyright issues limit reissues/repressing's from individuals and labels. This is further complicated by copyright claims/strikes/take-down requests from copyright holders.
- Physical media is often sold and distributed by indie music labels or self-released by the artist and are often the only distributors of their respective microgenres including: [100% Electronica](#), [Cached Media](#), [Cyro Chamber](#), [Dream Catalogue](#), [Hiraeth Records](#), [Geographic North](#), [Kranky Records](#), [Leaving Records](#), [Neoncity Records](#), [Past Inside the Present](#), [RVNG](#), [Screwed Up Records](#), and [Shelter Press](#), [Virtual Dream Plaza](#).
- Library acquisition is challenged by "drops," the sudden announcement of limited-quantity merchandise. Items often sellout within 36 hours creating artificial scarcity, which in turn drives up after-market prices. Check third-party distributors such as: [Boomkat](#), [Commend](#), [Deejay](#), [Peasantries + Pleasantries](#) & [Soundohm](#).



Resources and Additional Information

- Bandcamp Tags via Bandcamp Discover (<https://bandcamp.com/tags>)
 - Aggregates existing music genre tags used on Bandcamp.
 - Bandcamp Discover is a separate site with music genre tag visualization features.
- Every Noise at Once (<http://everynoise.com/>)
 - A Spotify web application using Echo Nest API and Spotify Web API.
 - Provides data visualization and artist search function using genre tags.
 - Indispensable for seeing the sonic relationships between artists and genre
- Musicbrainz, Discogs, their blog entry on [genres & styles](#), and [Dream Graveyard](#).
- 500 notes, drafting/submitting new subject/genre/form terms, using other vocabularies.
- Potentially drafting a white paper to explore developing a controlled vocabulary based on internet-derived genre-tags.
 - Inspired by the recent development of the Genre Terms for Table Top Games (\$2 gttg).



In Summary

- Microgenres are a cultural phenomena, oftentimes manifesting in literature, and the visual & performing arts under a variety of socioeconomic/sociopolitical/sociocultural conditions.
- Microgenres can be grouped into three broad categories: Hyper-specific; flexible, provisional and temporary; and specialized or niche.
- Microgenres present a unique set of challenges for libraries/archives/museums to acquire, create metadata descriptions of, and make accessible to their patrons.
- Microgenres are rarely static but are instead dynamic and can change over time.
- The purpose of this presentation was to breakdown the ways in which cultural production intersects with lived experience and art.
- Different sets of sociocultural and socioeconomic conditions can result in locally situated microgenres such as chopped and screwed music or in the case of vaporwave music a diffuse decentralized music scene originating online.
- Lastly, this presentation posited the idea that librarians are not only stewards of their collections but are also active participants in understanding and describing the context in which they and their institutions function in documenting and preserving these small cultures.

Illustrations

1. The Legend, DJ Screw, YouTube.
2. Purple Moonlight, the Chopstars, Soundcloud.
3. Drank, Thundercat + OG Ron C and DJ Candlestick, Brainfeeder.
4. Liteware, FM Skyline, Bandcamp.
5. Slide, George Clanton, Bandcamp.
6. Building a Better World, 猫 シ Corp. (Cat. System Corp.) & t e l e p a t h, Bandcamp.
7. Discreet music, Brian Eno, Discogs.
8. Wildlife addendum, Warmth, Bandcamp.
9. Catch a Blessing, M. Sage, Bandcamp.
10. DJ Screw on the mixer and turntables, DJ Screw Photographs and Memorabilia. Special Collections, University of Houston.
11. Candy paint and elbows, David S. Holloway/CNN.
12. Purple drink, Medium.
13. Moonlight: original motion picture soundtrack, Lakeshore Records.
14. Purple moonlight, the Chopstars.
15. Sizzurp, pop art vinyl sticker by Ben Frost.
16. [Sailor Moon] Where it doesn't rain (slowed + reverb), Slater YouTube Channel.
17. Lo-Fi girl, Juan Machado for ChilledCow, Wikipedia
18. Diary of the originator, DJ Screw, Discogs.
19. Floral shoppe, Vektroid/Macintosh Plus, Bandcamp.
20. Sick & panic, Vektroid/Macintosh Plus, Bandcamp.

Audio and Video

1. Discreet Music, Discreet music, by Brian Eno, 1975, EG Records.
2. Michigan turquoise, Catch a blessing, by M. Sage, 2019, Geographic North.
3. Circa, Wildlife addendum, by Warmth, 2019, Archives.
4. The Game Goes On (feat. K-Rino and Z-Ro), The Legend, DJ Screw, 2001.
5. Chiron's theme (chopped and screwed), Nicholas Britell, Moonlight: original motion picture soundtrack, 2016, Lakeshore Records.
6. Cell therapy (chopped not slopped), Goodie Mob + the Chopstars, Purple moonlight, 2017.
7. 花の専門店 = Hana no Senmon-ten = Floral Shoppe, Floral shoppe, by Macintosh Plus (Vektroid) 2011, Chronos & Vermillion.
8. Sector 131, Building a Better World, Sector 131, Building a Better World, 2019, Hiraeth Records.
9. Livin' Loose, Slide, by George Clanton, 2019, 100% Electronica.
10. Marble madness, Liteware, by FM Skyline, 2019, 100% Electronica.
11. Walk Slow, Slide, by George Clanton, 2019, 100% Electronica.
12. Sick & panic [first mix], Sick & panic, by Macintosh Plus (Vektroid), 2019, Chronos & Vermillion.

Video:

1. DJ Screw Making a Screw Tape. DJ Screw "Soldiers United for Cash" documentary, 2000, REL Entertainment, accessed April 9, 2019, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FSmMoVf1j_8
2. *Parts Unknown*. 2016. "Houston," with Anthony Bourdain. Season 7, episode 1. Aired October 30, 2016 on CNN. Accessed April 8, 2020. <https://www.cnn.com/videos/travel/2016/10/26/anthony-bourdain-parts-unknown-houston-2.cnn/video/playlists/atv-bourdain-s7-premiere-preview/>
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4. Lopatin, Daniel. 2010. "Electric Independence: Daniel Lopatin (Oneohtrix Point Never)." Interview by Vice. *Motherboard*, 2010. Accessed February 18, 2021. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E0RAMNU5Es8>.

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