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Library Assignment: Not All Dictionaries are Webster's

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In the reference section of the library you will find a huge section devoted to dictionaries: not just Webster's dictionaries of the English language, but extraordinary volumes of the sort few people know exist. (Dictionary of Jargon? Of Slang? Of Allusion?) Some pertain to music. Your job is to find three of these dictionaries that catch your eye, or may be of use to you in the future, and to write up brief citations of them in the following format. They may or may not be music dictionaries. Your choice.

> -- Title in standard bibliographical format
> -- Short description of contents, method of organization, and any unusual or distinctive features
> -- Call number
> -- One interesting fact that you learned from their content
> -- Names of books on either side
> -- Subjective comments from you
>
> Here is an example.

_____

Payton, Geoffrey, and John Paxton, ed. *The Penguin Dictionary of Proper Names*. Revised edition. New York: Viking, 1991. REF PE 1660 PB4 1991.

> *First published in 1969, this dictionary lists alphabetically any place, object, book title, or idea with a proper name. Short definitions are provided for each entry. The editors indicate that the selection process is inherently subjective. English language proper names seem to be stressed. 563 pages.*

Interesting fact: the leghorn chicken gets its name from the Italian city of Livorno, where this breed of chickens evidently originated. Anglicized, the word Livorno became "leghorn." The chickens, therefore, were not named for horns on their legs. Who knew?

Names of books on either side: left) *BBC Pronouncing Dictionary of British Names*, and right) *The Archaicon*

Subjective commentary: this book would make a great Trivial Pursuit reference. Entries are brief, featuring quick facts without any lengthy discussion of etymology or variant spellings of names. Its content makes it a good complement to a regular English-language dictionary because it covers exactly what Webster's minimizes: proper names. The book is quirky in its selection of entries, but why not? It's a neat find.

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Do three of these and turn in your descriptions in class on _____ .