
THE TRADITIONAL BALLAD INDEX SOFTWARE

Instructions for Use

The Traditional Ballad Index software is a cross-platform program with versions for IBM PC, Macintosh, and unix, with source code available under the GNU Public License.

The Ballad Index software was written by Bob Waltz, waltzmn@skypoint.com (who is also responsible for the Macintosh version) with a lot (and I mean a lot) of help from Don Nichols (it wouldn't have been possible without his help, and he also supplied the UNIX features). The PC version is a direct port to Windows of the unix application, managed by Ben Schwartz, and runs under a Linux-like emulator.

The Ballad Index software is free, but is protected by the GNU Public License. (See Appendix III.)

The document you are currently reading applies to ALL versions of the software, for PC, Mac, and unix. There are separate instructions on how to install the program on each type of system.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

To run the Ballad Index software, you will need at least the following:

IBM PC:

- * An IBM PC-compatible computer with an 80386 or higher processor.
- * The Cygwin software required to run unix libraries (requires about 80 MB of hard disk space)
- * 15 MB of space for the Ballad Index itself
- * Enough RAM to have a 3 MB partition available for the Index
- * Windows XP or higher (the index will probably run on Windows versions back to Windows 95, but this has not been tested)

Macintosh:

- * OS X 10.3 or higher. (You can run the Index as a command line program in OS X 10.2, and probably in 10.1, but it's really not worth it)
- * 15 MB of free hard disk space for the Index data files and scratch space

Unix:

- * GCC or a compatible C compiler supporting the curses.h terminal routines
- * 15 MB of free hard disk space

For more details, see the installation requirements for your particular system.

REQUIRED FILES

Most installations of the Ballad Index require you to download three sets of files, which can be updated separately:

- * The Ballad Index text file, **BALLDIDX.TXT**.
- * The Supplemental Tradition text file, **supptrad.txt**.
- * The Ballad Index software.

Consult the installation instructions on the details of for your system.

USING THE BALLAD INDEX

OK, having finally finished all those disclaimers and installation non-instructions, let's get to the relatively fun part: using the software.

In using the Ballad Index, keep in mind that the software is designed to be run on three different platforms. There is no customization for particular hardware at all.

The result is a program driven by keyboard commands almost exclusively. The Index is menu-driven for the most part: You type in a one-character command, followed by a return, and the Index responds by doing something.

The basic purpose of the Index is to perform searches and display the results.

In fact, that's all it does. The general sequence of operations is:

1. You create a search: Tell the Index what to look for
2. The Index displays a list of songs meeting your criteria
3. You choose a song to examine in more detail. Repeat as needed.
4. Create a new search (or modify your existing search) and return to Step 2.

When you start up the Index, the Ballad Index window will open. (Note: It is best that you not resize this window during operations The Ballad Index reads the screen size when you start up, and may not correctly update if you change the window size.) The following command line will appear at the bottom of your window (depending on your system, the formatting may look slightly different):

-----COMMAND-----
Options: S=(New) Search C=Change search P=Prefs H=Help Q=Quit.
Enter selection [S]:

The second line shows you the list of available commands. They include:

S=(New) Search

Allows you to enter search criteria to find a list of songs. This is pretty much why you're here. The others options are window dressing. To choose this option, type S (you can also type "Search" if you really want to, but I don't know why you would want to), then Return. If you don't want even to type "S," you can skip it. The letter in square brackets ("[S]") tells you that this is the default -- press return and the Index will treat it as if you had entered "S."

C=Change Search

If you already have a set of search parameters defined, this lets you change them. (More on this later.)

P=Prefs

This allows you to change your user preferences. Preferences determine the way searches are conducted and displayed. You generally won't change these very often.

H=Help

Allows you to see the online help. It may not be good for much, but at least it will remind you of which keystrokes do what. It also contains bug reports, hints on how to conduct searches, and other things that we, at least, find interesting. You can enter the help command from almost any prompt to see the help file (the help is not context-sensitive).

Q=Quit

I'll bet you can figure out what this does. Like the H for Help command, Q is available almost anywhere prompts are shown.

We'll assume you chose S for search. (Since it's much more interesting than the other choices.) You will be told that you are starting a New Search, and shown this prompt:

New search....

Search in: T=song TITLES, K=Keywords, A=ALL text [**T**]:

This allows you to decide what sort of search you wish to perform. The Ballad Index allows you to look for songs based on their titles, a special list of keywords, or the entire text of the entry. Searching by titles or keywords is much faster than searching the whole text (these are "indexed" searches, and take only about a tenth the time a full-text search requires), but they only work if you know the song's title or can guess at the keywords.

Once you've decided which sort of search you want to do, type in the command (T, K, or A) and then press return. In this case, let's try T for titles. The software will proceed to the amazingly obvious prompt:

Enter title string:

That is, you should type the word or phrase you want to look for. If you want to search for all songs with the word "Golden" in the title, for example, you would type in "golden" (no quotes!) then return.

That is all there is to starting up a search!

Of course, you have to tell the Index that you're done creating the search. As soon as you have pressed Return, you will enter the Search Editor. In the Editor, you can add more search criteria, change what you just entered, or otherwise change your search.

If you in fact entered the search command "golden," the search editor would look like this:

```
1          search Song titles for "golden"
```

Search type: &=And, O=Or, !=Not

Or enter command: R=Remove Line E=Exchange I=Insert line G=Go Search, Q=Quit

H=Help S=New Search. M=Main Menu. Enter command [**G**]:

The first line,

```
1          search Song titles for "golden"
```

shows the search command you have already created. The first part tells you what you are searching, and the phrase in quotes tells you the string you're searching for.

Below this you see the search editor commands.

For the moment, let's assume you just want to search for "Golden." So you don't need to edit your search, you just need to do it. In that case, you're ready to "Go Search." So press the "G" command, then press return.

Having been told what to look for, the Ballad Index will get busy doing the looking. Depending on the speed of your computer and hard disk, a title search will take anything from no noticeable time at all to a few seconds. Then you will see the song list (only a subset is shown below):

Total records found = 25

```
1          search Song titles for "Golden"
```

```
1 Bold Trellitee, The: see The Golden Vanity [Child 286] (File: C286)
2 Climbing Up the Golden Stairs
3 Dog and Gun: see The Golden Glove (Dog and Gun) [Laws N20] (File: LN20)
4 Golden Axe, The
5 Golden Ball, The: see The Maid Freed from the Gallows [Child 95] (File: C0
6 Golden Carol, The (The Three Kings)
7 Golden Glove, The (Dog and Gun) [Laws N20]
8 Golden Gullies of the Palmer, The
9 Golden Slippers
10 Golden Vanity, The [Child 286]
11 Goulden Vanitie, The: see The Golden Vanity [Child 286] (File: C286)
12 Granny and the Golden Ball: see The Maid Freed from the Gallows [Child 95]
13 Green Willow Tree, The: see The Golden Vanity [Child 286] (File: C286)
14 Lady and the Glove, The: see The Golden Glove (Dog and Gun) [Laws N20] (Fi
15 Little Golden Ring, The
16 Lowlands Low (I), The: see The Golden Vanity [Child 286] (File: C286)
```

Commands: D=Scroll Down, U=Scroll Up, F=Save to file, X to exit, Q to quit
Enter command or song number to display [**D**]:

If you want to view one of these songs (say #4, "The Golden Axe"), that's easy enough: Just enter the number of the song and press return, and voila!

NAME: Golden Axe, The

DESCRIPTION: Recitation: "What you goin' to do?" Sung: "Why, knock you in the head with a golden axe!"

AUTHOR: unknown

EARLIEST_DATE: 1922 (Randolph)

KEYWORDS: violence

FOUND_IN: US(So)

REFERENCES: (1 citation)

Randolph 284, "The Golden Axe" (1 fragment, 1 tune)

Roud #7785

File: R284

===

Enter Command:

M=Main Menu X=Return to Song List F=Save to File Q=Quit: [X]:

Which probably isn't the song you wanted. So you can go back to the song list by pressing the X command (or simply pressing return). X is another of those good keys to remember (like H for help and Q for Quit); it will usually back you up one level. In this case, it takes you back to the song list.

When you're at the list, you may want to scroll up or down or look at other songs. But it's an awfully long list; it would probably be easier to try to narrow down the list of songs a bit. (Or maybe a lot....)

The trick to this is a command we saw way back at the opening screen: The "Change Search" (C) command. If, from the song list or the main menu, you choose the C command, you will drop back into the search editor:

```
1          search Song titles for "golden"
```

Search type: &=And, O=Or, !=Not

Or enter command: R=Remove Line E=Exchange I=Insert line G=Go Search, Q=Quit

H=Help S=New Search. M=Main Menu. Enter command [G]:

You see that you still have your first search item, looking for "golden." But you want to add something more -- say, all Child ballads with "Golden" in the title.

Adding an item to the search is really quite easy. What you want to do is search the titles for "golden" and also for "Child." So you want to add an "AND" search. The menu gives you the clue: type "&" then return to add an AND. From there on, things are about what you've seen before. You'll be asked whether to search titles or keywords or all text, and then what search string to search for.

Once you've done that, your command screen will look like this:

```
1          search Song titles for "golden"  
2          and search Song titles for "Child"
```

Search type: &=And, O=Or, !=Not

Or enter command: R=Remove Line E=Exchange I=Insert line G=Go Search, Q=Quit

H=Help S=New Search. M=Main Menu. Enter command [G]:

You can, in fact, add even more searches (the maximum number of parameters is eight). Searches can be AND, OR, or NOT searches, and you can search a mixture of titles and keywords and all text. Running the above search will produce a list rather like the following:

Total records found = 18

- 1 search Song titles for "golden"
- 2 and search Song titles for "Child"

- 1 Bold Trellitee, The: see The Golden Vanity [Child 286] (File: C286)
- 2 Gallant Victory, The: see The Golden Vanity [Child 286] (File: C286)
- 3 Golden Ball, The: see The Maid Freed from the Gallows [Child 95] (File: C0)
- 4 Golden Vallady: see The Golden Vanity [Child 286] (File: C286)
- 5 Golden Vanity, The [Child 286]**
- 6 Goulden Vanitee, The: see The Golden Vanity [Child 286] (File: C286)
- 7 Goulden Vanitie, The: see The Golden Vanity [Child 286] (File: C286)
- 8 Granny and the Golden Ball: see The Maid Freed from the Gallows [Child 95]
- 9 Green Willow Tree (I), The: see The Golden Vanity [Child 286] (File: C286)
- 10 Lowlands Low (I), The: see The Golden Vanity [Child 286] (File: C286)
- 11 Merry Golden Lee, The: see The Golden Vanity [Child 286] (File: C286)
- 12 Merry Golden Tree, The: see The Golden Vanity [Child 286] (File: C286)
- 13 Robin Hood and the Golden Arrow [Child 152]**
- 14 Robin Hood's Golden Prize [Child 147]**
- 15 Sweet Kumadee, The: see The Golden Vanity [Child 286] (File: C286)
- 16 Sweet Trinity, The: see The Golden Vanity [Child 286] (File: C286)
- 17 Weep-Willow Tree, The: see The Golden Vanity [Child 286] (File: C286)
- 18 Weeping Willow Tree, The: see The Golden Vanity [Child 286] (File: C286)

Commands: F=Save to file, X to exit, Q to quit, S=New Search, C=Modify Search
Enter command or song number to display [X]:

We have, obviously, narrowed the search considerably. There are actually only three songs that meet this description; the other eleven are different titles by which "The Golden Vanity" is known. You can tell which are the main entries by the fact that they are shown in bold; cross-reference entries are in ordinary type.

Of course, you're not limited to adding new search parameters in the search editor. You can also add or subtract or change your parameters. Look again at your options:

Search type: &=And, O=Or, !=Not

Or enter command: R=Remove Line E=Exchange I=Insert line G=Go Search, Q=Quit
H=Help S=New Search. M=Main Menu. Enter command [G]:

Note the options available: You can press "R" to remove a line. "I" lets you add a line somewhere other than the end of the list. "E" lets you exchange lines -- that is, for instance, swap line 1 and line 2.

Search order actually is important if you have a mixed set of searches. If you do nothing but AND searches, the order of the searches does not matter, but if you combine AND, OR, and NOT searches, order becomes significant. (You can see examples of this in Appendix II.)

This probably requires some explanation. If you have used programs like databases before, you may have encountered things like "Boolean searches." These let you use all sorts of parentheses and complicated syntax.

But don't worry; you don't have to know that. The Ballad Index uses a much simpler method: It does searches just the way you tell it to. The way it works is this: If you have multiple searches, it starts by doing the first search. This produces a list of songs which meet the particular criterion. The Ballad Index then conducts the second search. It then compares the search lists. If you use an AND search, only songs found by both searches are retained. If you do an OR search, then any song found in either list is kept. If you do a NOT search, then the only songs you get are those found by the first search and not by the second.

This means that the order in which you do things matters. A lot. For example, if you want to search for all the Barbara Allen variants with either "Allan" or "Ellen" in the title, you can't search titles for "Barbara" AND "Allan" OR "Ellen." If you try that search, you'll get all the Barbara Allan songs – but you'll also get every song with "Ellen" in the title, from "Barbara Ellen" to "Ellen Munn" to "Poor Ellen Smith." The right way to conduct that particular search is to look for "Allan" OR "Ellen" AND "Barbara."

(And relax; it's not as complicated as it sounds. You'll get the hang of it with a little practice. Just remember: The Index searches for things in the order they appear in your search list.)

One thing you'll need to keep in mind is the presence of "cross-reference" entries. Note the third item in the list above:

```
3 GoldenBall, The: see The Maid Freed from the Gallows [Child 95] (File: C0
```

This is a "cross-reference" entry. If you looked it up, you wouldn't see an actual entry; instead, you would see a pointer to an actual entry:

```
NAME: Golden Ball, The: see The Maid Freed from the Gallows [Child 95]
===
```

```
Enter Command: L=Lookup main entry X=Return to Song List Q=Quit [ L ]:
```

Knowing that "The Golden Ball" is a version of "The Maid Freed from the Gallows" is all very well, but chances are that you'd like to see "The Maid Freed...", not just know about it. That's where the L (Lookup) command comes in. If you see a cross-reference entry (one of these tiny little one or two line entries), press "L" and you will go to the corresponding main entry, saving you the effort of doing a whole new search.

Once you've mastered that, you really know all there is to know about the Index. The rest is all window dressing. For instance, you can save files from the Index. This is done with the "F" command. You can use this command while looking at a list of songs or while looking at an individual song. (The File command even has some advantages over viewing the list or record on-screen, as it will save the entire list, not just what you can see on-screen.) Once you enter the "F" command, you will be asked to type a file name (and directory path, if you want to save it somewhere other than the default location). The file command saves the records as text files; you can open them in any editor which handles text, including the Windows Notepad or just about any word processor ever invented.

To set the preferences, enter the "P" (for Preferences) command at the main menu. The Index will start asking you questions.

Here, for example, are the preferences I am using this week (next week may be a different matter...).

SEARCH PARAMETERS presently shown above Found List.

Do you want to display the parameters in the found list (Y/N) [**Y**]:

Searches DO NOT MATCH CASE (i.e. u and U are the same).

Do you want to match case (Y/N) [**N**]:

MATCHED TEXT presently shown in song display.

Do you want to highlight found text in song displays (Y/N) [**Y**]:

Each preference has its own particular purpose. SEARCH PARAMETERS ABOVE FOUND LIST lets you "see what you are looking for." For examples, suppose you search for "engineer." If SEARCH PARAMETERS are turned on, you will see this:

Total records found = 4

1 search Song titles for "engineer"

1 **Child of the Railroad Engineer, The (The Two Lanterns)**

2 **Engineer, The**

3 Two Lanterns, The: see The Child of the Railroad Engineer (The Two Lantern

4 **Zack, the Mormon Engineer**

Commands: F=Save to file, X to exit, Q to quit, S=New Search, C=Modify Search

Enter command or song number to display [**X**]:

If you turn SEARCH PARAMETERS off, this becomes:

Total records found = 4

1 **Child of the Railroad Engineer, The (The Two Lanterns)**

2 **Engineer, The**

3 Two Lanterns, The: see The Child of the Railroad Engineer (The Two Lantern

4 **Zack, the Mormon Engineer**

Commands: F=Save to file, X to exit, Q to quit, S=New Search, C=Modify Search

Enter command or song number to display [**X**]:

(Note the lack of a line or lines listing what you were looking for.)

MATCH CASE actually controls the way searches are performed. If you match case, it means (for example) that "This is a Song Title" is not the same as "This is a song title," because the words "song" and "title" are capitalized in the first instance and not in the second. For this reason, MATCH CASE defaults to off, so that "Song" and "song" are the same, as are "Boat" and "boat," and "US" and "us," and even "case" and "caSE." But you might perhaps want to distinguish sometimes (e.g. "Polish" is not the same word as "polish," though I really doubt that you will ever find a case where that distinction matters in traditional song).

Let's take another example to demonstrate one last feature: The **Supplemental Tradition**.

Suppose you do an ordinary title search for "Aginc" (short for "Agincourt," after the famous battle won by the English King Henry V). You will find this list of hits:

Total records found = 3

1 search Song titles for "aginc"

1 Agincourt Carol, The

2 For the Victory at Agincourt: see The Agincourt Carol (File: MEL51)

3 Song of Agincourt, The: see The Agincourt Carol (File: MEL51)

If you look up song 1, the Agincourt carol, you'll see something like this:

NAME: Agincourt Carol, The

DESCRIPTION: King Henry (V) travels to France "wyth grace and myght of chyvalry," captures Harfleur, and wins a great victory at Agincourt, "Wherfore Englonde may call and cry, 'Deo gracias (x2) anglia Rede pro victoria.'"

AUTHOR: unknown

EARLIEST_DATE: before 1500 (Bodleian MS Selden B. 26); hints in chronicles imply that it was sung at Henry V's return to England 1415/16

KEYWORDS: England France battle royalty

HISTORICAL_REFERENCES: 1413 - Accession of Henry V

Aug 11, 1415 - Invasion of France

Sept 22, 1415 - Surrender of Harfleur

Oct 25, 1415 - Battle of Agincourt. Henry V, outnumbered by about 10 to 1, defeats the French, inflicting casualties in the same 10:1 ratio

1422 - Death of Henry V

FOUND_IN:

REFERENCES: (5 citations)

Percy/Wheatley II, pp. 29-31, "For the Victory at Agincourt" (1 text)

Stevick-100MEL 51, "(The Agincourt Carol)" (1 text)

Chappell/Wooldridge I, pp. 25-30, "The Song of Agincourt" (1 text, 1 tune)

ADDITIONAL: Brown/Robbins, Index of Middle English Verse, #2716

DT, AGINCRT1*

ST MEL51 (Full)

CROSS_REFERENCES:

cf. "King Henry Fifth's Conquest of France" [Child 164] (subject)

--MORE--

Scroll Commands: U=Scroll Up D=Scroll Down. **Enter Command:**

M=Main Menu X=Song List F=Save to File V=Show SuppTrad Q=Quit: [D]:

If you look at the command list, you'll see that there is a new entry, "V=Show SuppTrad." This is available because there is an entry in the REFERENCES: field, "ST MEL51 (Full)." What this means is that you can actually look up a text of The Agincourt Carol, to let you know what this particular song looks like. In this case, what you would see looks something like this:

Agincourt Carol, The

Complete text(s)

*** A ***

The Song of Agincourt

From the Bodleian Library (Cambridge), MS. Selden B. 26

As transcribed in Chappell/Wooldridge, pp. 25-26.

Collated against the version in Robert D. Stevick, *One Hundred Middle English Lyrics*, #51 (S), the version in Percy/Wheatley, II.i.5 (P), and that in R. T. Davies, *Medieval English Lyrics*, #80 (D), all of these being versions of the same text but with different modernizations. (It appears that the original probably used the letter yogh (ȝ). Chappell, Davies, Stevick have transcribed this as gh; Percy uses y. I suspect the manuscript had thorn also, but this cannot be proved from the transcriptions. Chappell/Wooldridge report that Percy's source was from a copy of the Cambridge MS.)

The Song of Agincourt

Deo gracias anglia,

Redde pro victoria

1 Owre kynge went forth to normandy,
With grace and myght of chyvalry:
Ther god for him wrought mervelusly.
Wherfore englonde may calle and cry
Deo gracias....

Press any key to continue; B returns to top., X exits... [■]:

You can use this to scroll through the song text if it's available.

The Supplemental Tradition is a rather mixed bag, since the first few hundred texts were assembled for other purposes. But we're making increasing effort to include at least representative stanzas of the songs in the Ballad Index not easily accessible elsewhere.

That's about it. The above covers just about every function of the Ballad Index. For further information, see the online help or the files on the web site (both of which explain the material in the Ballad Index; this ReadMe is concerned entirely with the software used to search the Index). You can find a complete list of commands in Appendix I below.

APPENDIX I: THE COMMANDS USED IN THE BALLAD INDEX

The following list shows all the keystroke command presently defined in the Ballad Index, along with their purposes. Note that a particular keystroke command will only have a use in particular places in the Index.

A: Search All Text

Used only in the search editor. Tells the Index to search entire records (as opposed to titles or keywords)

B: Beginning of List

Used only when displaying a song or song list. Moves to the top of the display.

C: Change/Modify Search

From the main menu or song list, lets you modify the search parameters you have entered. If you just want to start over from scratch, use S (New Search) instead.

D: Page Down

When displaying a song or song list, move down 12 lines (approximately) toward the end of the song.

E: Exchange Lines

From the Search Editor, exchange the order of two particular search parameters.

F: Save to File

When displaying a song or a song list, save that entry to a text file for use in other programs.

G: Go Search

From the search editor (or the main menu if you already have a search defined), proceeds to perform your specified search.

H: Help

Displays the Ballad Index internal help. Available from most prompt lines. Help is not context-sensitive.

I: Insert Line

Used in the search editor to add another parameter. (Note: You only need to do this to add an item before the end of the search list. To add a parameter at the end, use the And, Or, Not keys).

K: Search in Keywords

Specifies that you wish to search in keywords (as opposed to titles or all text)

L: Lookup Main Entry

When looking at a cross-reference entry (a short entry advising you to "see" another entry), looks up the related main entry.

M: Main Menu

From most menus, returns to the Main Menu

P: Preferences

From the main menu, lets you set your preferences

Q: Quit

From any command line, lets you quit the Ballad Index

R: Remove Line

From the search editor, lets you remove a search parameter

S: Search (New Search)

From the main menu or lower-level menus, create a new set of search parameters

T: Search Titles Only

Specifies that you wish to search in titles (as opposed to keywords or all text)

U: Page Up

Used only when displaying a song or song list. Moves up 12 lines or to the top of the display.

V: Show Supplemental Tradition

Enabled only for songs which have a Supplemental Tradition entry. This lets you call up that entry to see the text of the song.

W: List Keywords

Displays a list of the Ballad Index Keywords. (You can also view the keywords in any text editor, or edit them to suit your needs. Details on editing the keyword list are found in the internal help.)

X: Abort/Exit/Back One

From any command line, moves back up one level toward the main menu

&: AND

AND command for searches. (You can also use "A," but elsewhere that command means for "All Text")

/: OR (that's the vertical bar, shift-\, not the letter I)

OR command for searches. (You can also use "O")

!: NOT

NOT command for searches. (You can also use "N," but elsewhere that command means "No")

<RETURN> or <ENTER>

Selects the default command (the thing enclosed in brackets []).

APPENDIX II: FURTHER EXAMPLES AND HINTS FOR SEARCHING

This appendix shows you how you can set up searches to find particular songs.

The key thing to remember is that searches are conducted in the order specified. This means that rearranging your searches can produce different (sometimes very different) results. Let's take examples by pretending the Ballad Index has only a handful of titles (as opposed to the 6000+ it actually contains):

Barbara Allen
Barbara Ellen
Barbara Buck
Barbary Allen
Barbary Allan
Poor Ellen Smith

Suppose you search for Barbara AND Allen OR Ellen. What you will get is not "Barbara Allen" and "Barbara Ellen." Instead, your search will turn up "Barbara Allen," "Barbara Ellen," and "Poor Ellen Smith." Why? Consider what you looked for.

The search for "Barbara" would turn up three songs: "Barbara Allen," "Barbara Ellen," and "Barbara Buck." The second search, for "Allen" would pick up "Barbara Allen" and "Barbary Allen." AND-ing these two lists together (that is, finding the songs which are in both lists) leaves us with only one song: "Barbara Allen."

Having finished the first two searches, the Index keeps the result of the AND, then searches for "Ellen." It finds "Barbara Ellen" and "Poor Ellen Smith." OR-ing these two with the previous list, containing "Barbara Allen," will produce the list we specified.

But chances are that you were looking for all songs with Barbara and EITHER Allen OR Ellen in the title. To find these, rearrange the searches. What you want is not Barbara AND Allen OR Ellen, but rather Allen OR Ellen AND Barbara.

Now you may have noticed that these searches didn't turn up the "Barbary" references. There is a trick here: You don't have to search for whole words. If you don't know whether a name is spelled "Barbara" or "Barbary," just use "Barbar" or even "Barb."

Some other examples of the "wrong way" to search is something like Barbara NOT Allen OR Ellen. That search will get you "Barbara Allen," "Barbara Ellen," "Barbara Buck," and "Poor Ellen Smith." Whereas what you wanted was probably all the songs with Barbara in the title that didn't contain Allen or Ellen. The correct search for that would be Barbara NOT Allen NOT Ellen. That would produce the result you want: "Barbara Buck" and nothing else.

Keep in mind that every search (except the first) operates on two lists: The list of songs found in your most recent search, and the list of songs found by all the searches prior to that one. AND takes only the songs found in both lists. OR produces every song found in either list. NOT produces the songs found in the first list but not the second.

Appendix III: Distributing This Software

The Ballad Index software is distributed under the GNU License, which is included with the source code on this web site. Specifically, it is made available under Release 2 of the GNU license (1991).

Key provisions of the GNU License include the following:

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