Survey of Jazz History Texts
Concise Guide to Jazz: Mark Gridley

- Chapters include all relevant jazz styles from origins until today
- Reading is easy with a good selection of photos
- Includes chapter summaries, suggested listening, and additional reading
- Especially good is the accompanying CD and thorough listening guides for each selection
- Good glossary and short sections for musicians as well as non-musicians
- Comes with a “test bank” for teachers
- Generally a little too basic for musicians, but good for non-musicians
Survey of Jazz History Texts
Jazz Styles: Mark Gridley

- Same as Concise, but with much more detail about the music
- More of a focus on specific musicians
- Certainly more geared for the musician
- Likely necessary to add current musicians to stay up to date
Survey of Jazz History Texts
Jazz: Tanner & Gerow

- Later editions are much more comprehensive, especially in later styles
- Listening guides from enclosed recordings and SCCJ
- Chapters are uniquely constructed (i.e., colors and designs)
- Also includes chapter summaries, additional readings and recordings, glossaries, etc.
- Many pictures and reading is good
- There is a focus on certain musicians
- Good for all students, but perhaps not as thorough
Survey of Jazz History Texts
Jazz, A History: Frank Tirro

- The old standard for jazz history texts
- Lots of very specific information
- Includes transcriptions and analyses
- Also, contains a nice timeline, glossary and discography, illustrations, and photos
- Has good information regarding jazz origins and roots
- Perhaps some obscure information for the general student, and better for the music major, or even jazz major
- Very difficult reading
- Needs updating
Survey of Texts

- Scope
- Pros and cons
- Types of expectations and/or assignments
- User friendly for student?
- User friendly for teacher?
- Does it serve its purpose?