Recent Changes to the Fine Arts Listening Library (FALL)

Rationale for the changes outlined in this document

The biggest change to FALL is the inclusion of an inline media-player designed to eliminate problems that users of FALL have reported with almost all of the most popular media players.

If you are having difficulty playing streamed tracks, the cause is likely your media player. The issues are not easily fixed by end-users. FALL has been upgraded to try to remedy some of the issues. iTunes, for example, has changed radically and no longer supports Internet streaming of MP3s in playlists that use the M3U standard. This format predominates and is the format that works best in FALL. At this time, FALL is unable to deliver streamed playlists in the M3U8 format to iTunes (the format recently adopted by Apple). The recommended solution to media-player problems is to configure FALL to stream online, using the new, inline media-player.

Login

A new “Division of Fine Arts” banner has been added to the site, as pictured below:

If you are an existing user, login as usual. If you are a new user, click sign-up. Your account will be activated once your request has been received and approved. You will receive an email at your NDSU email address when the account request has been processed.

Once you login, the main FALL screen will appear. As pictured on the next page, the screen includes a system of categorical menus.
Setting “My Options”

To configure FALL to use the media-player, or another option, click the “Options” button under the “My” menu heading. You will get a pop-up window, as pictured on the next page. If you have configured the inline media-player, you may load entire playlists into the player using “play” button under the “Shared playlists” menu. Another way to load an entire playlist into the inline media-player is to click the “view” button under the “Shared playlists” menu and then “play” button under the “Control playlists” menu. Please note, the “Play” button under the “Viewer” menu does not load the selected items from a playlist into the inline-media player. Selecting discrete tracks from a playlist and playing only those tracks is a feature available only to MP3 client software like iTunes or WinAMP. Load the entire playlist into the inline media-player and then skip tracks if required using the inline media-player’s controls.
Configure the Playlist Type

To configure FALL to deliver playlists in one format or another, select an option from the drop-down menu associated with “Playlist” on the “Options” pop-up window. The preferred configurations at this time are either “jw” as pictured immediately below or jw-enqueue. Either of these settings will provide you with an inline, media-player. “jw” will play the tracks of a single playlist while “jw-enqueue” is designed to display multiple playlists and their associated tracks. “jw-enqueue”. Also, as indicated in the first picture below, please ensure that the checkbox next to “Use EXTM3U feature” is unchecked, and that the “Playlists inline” feature is checked.
The new, Inline, media-player

The inline media-player is described in the picture below. The individual tracks of a playlist will be displayed in the order that the playlist creator saved them. This ordered track-list will appear in media-player's window frame below the media-player's controls, as indicated in the picture below by the note “Playlist's Tracks.” Streaming should begin as immediately as the playlist loads. You can play the playlist’s tracks in any order simply by clicking on a title in the list of tracks.

Please note that the video display area of the window will remain blank, as FALL does not host video.