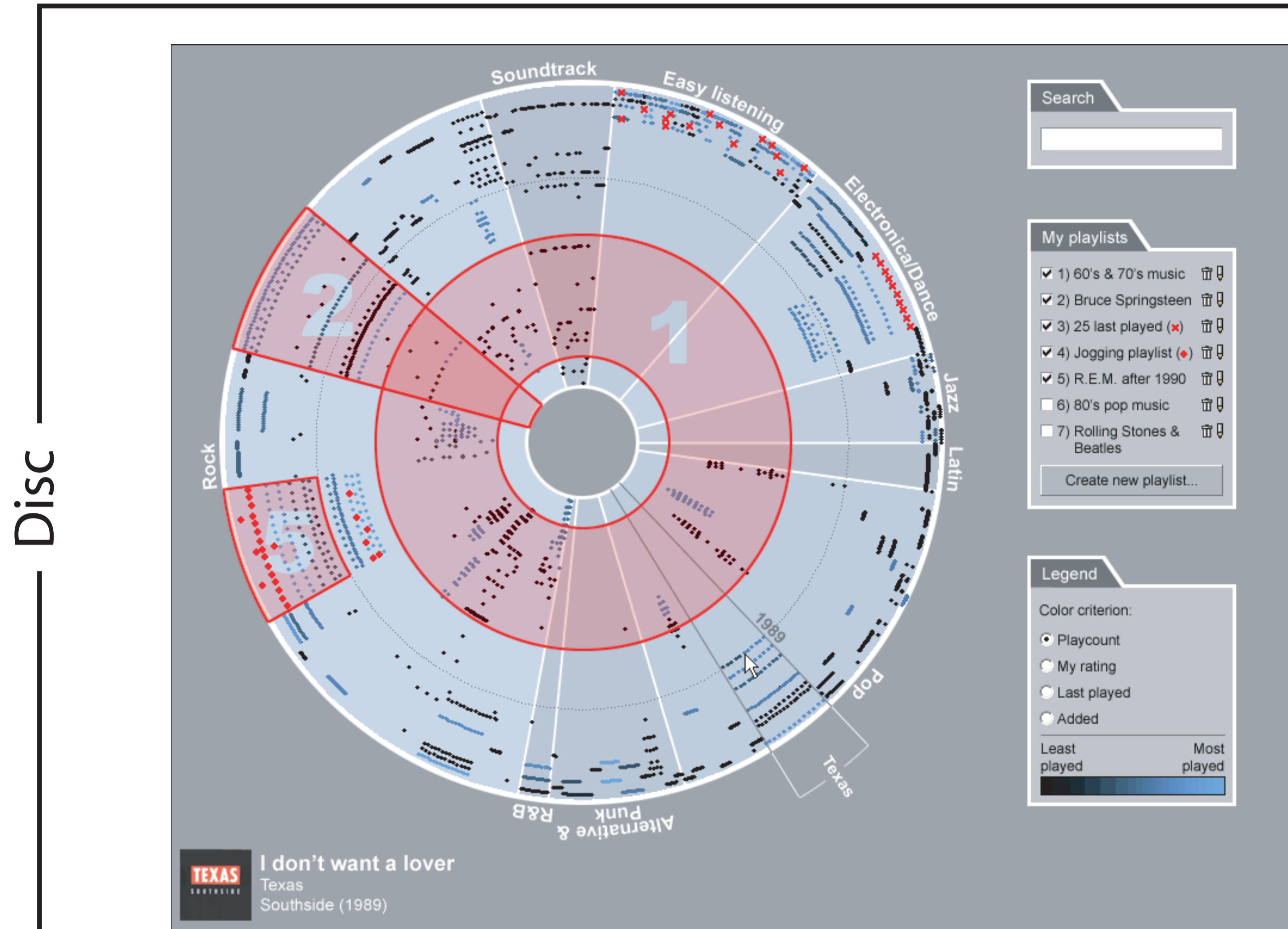


Visualizing and Exploring Personal Music Libraries

Music player software with visualizations based on textual lists and organizing features such as smart playlists are not enough for helping users to efficiently manage their libraries which may easily contain thousands of tracks. Thus, in order to avoid the current situation where users are clearly overwhelmed with the problem of selecting tracks, we propose new visualizations and their associated managing features.



Each track is displayed as a dot.

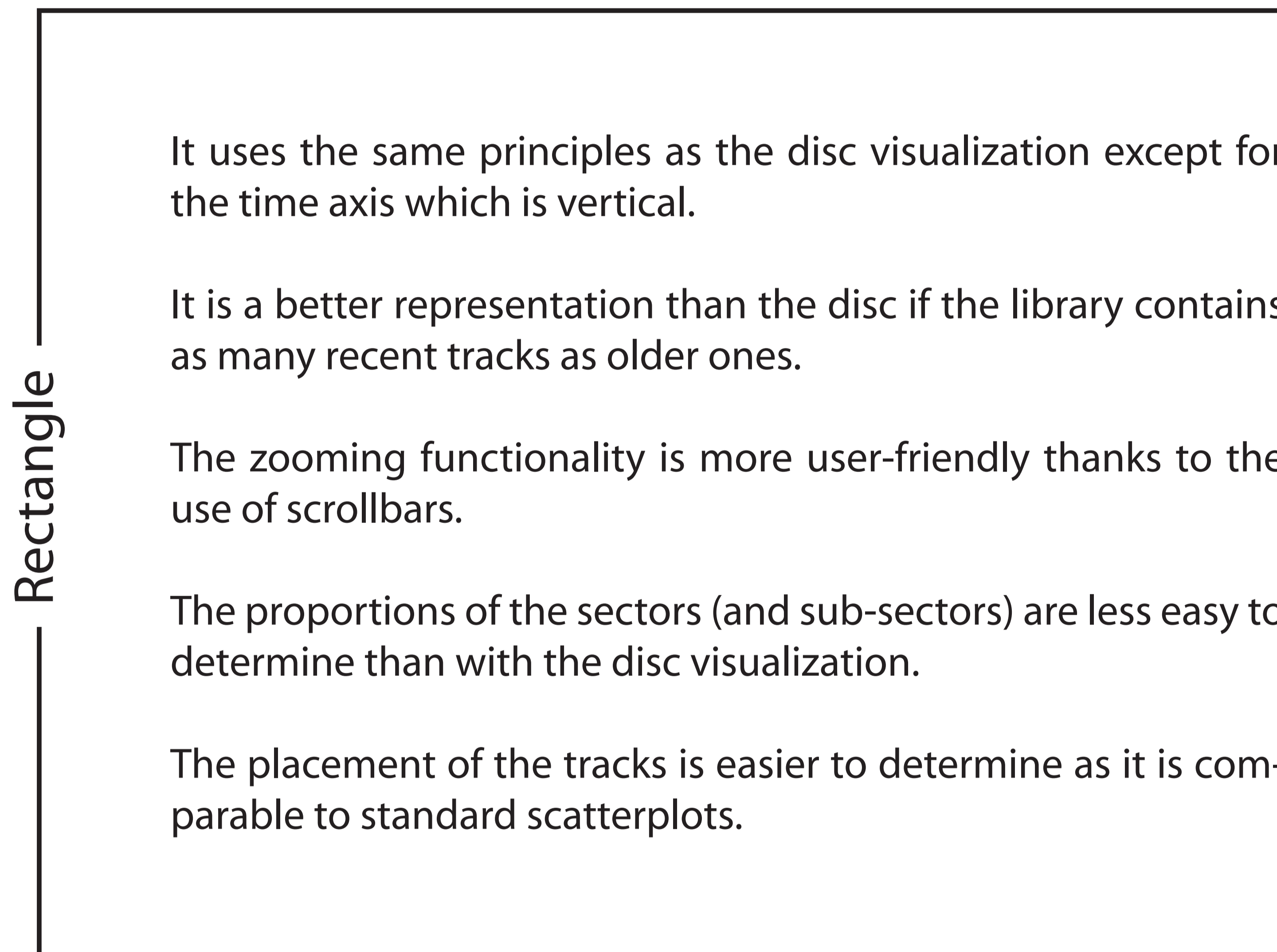
The disc is divided into sectors representing genres (that are divided into sub-sectors representing artists) proportionally to the number of corresponding tracks.

The more recent the track is, the farther from the center it is.

The color (of the dots and the sectors) can match any numerical attributes (e.g., playcount, rating).

Playlists can be shown as geometrical shapes (smart playlists) or sets of dots (conventional playlists). It can be used to graphically create or modify playlists.

It is a good representation if the library contains more recent tracks than older ones.



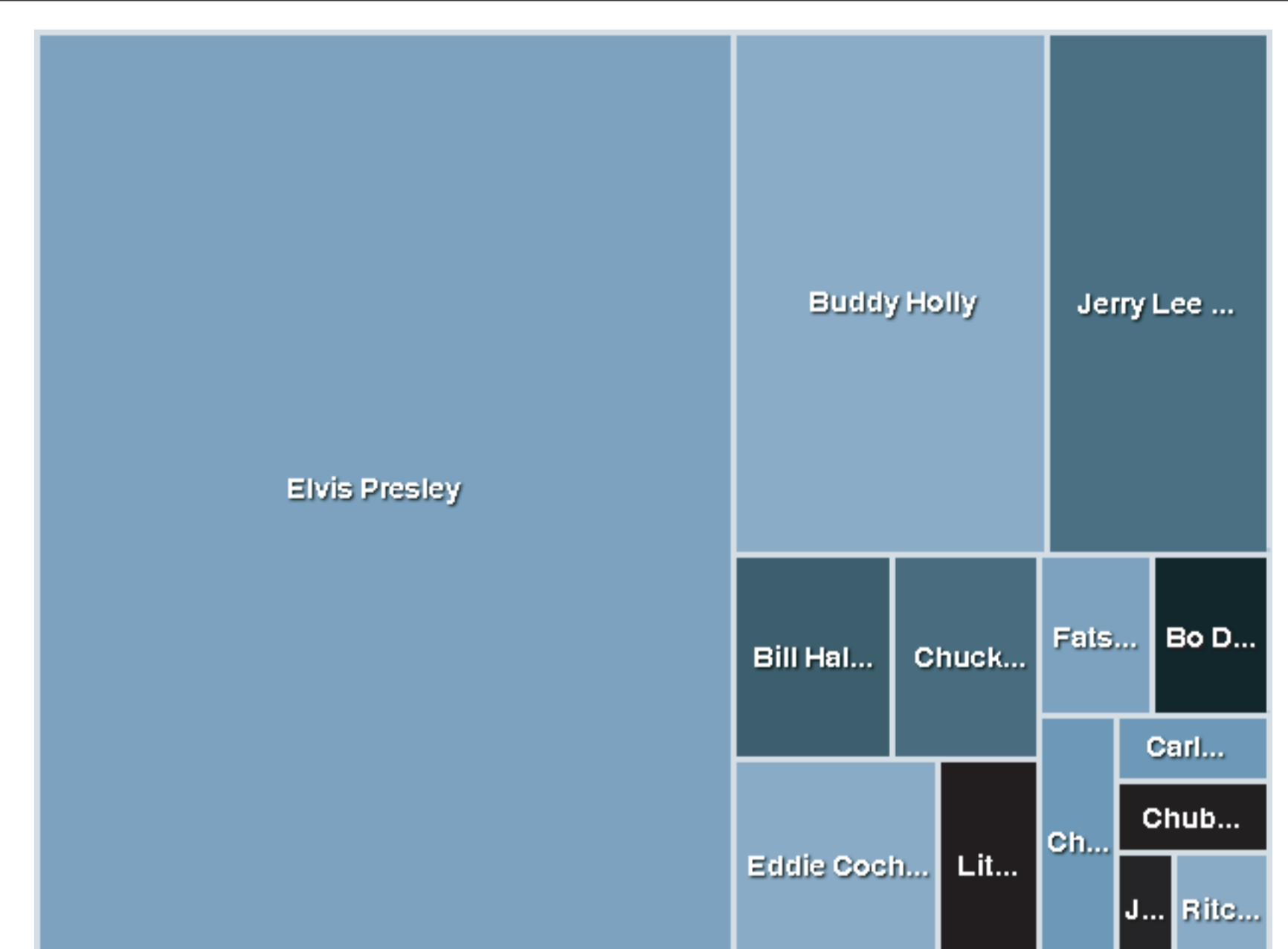
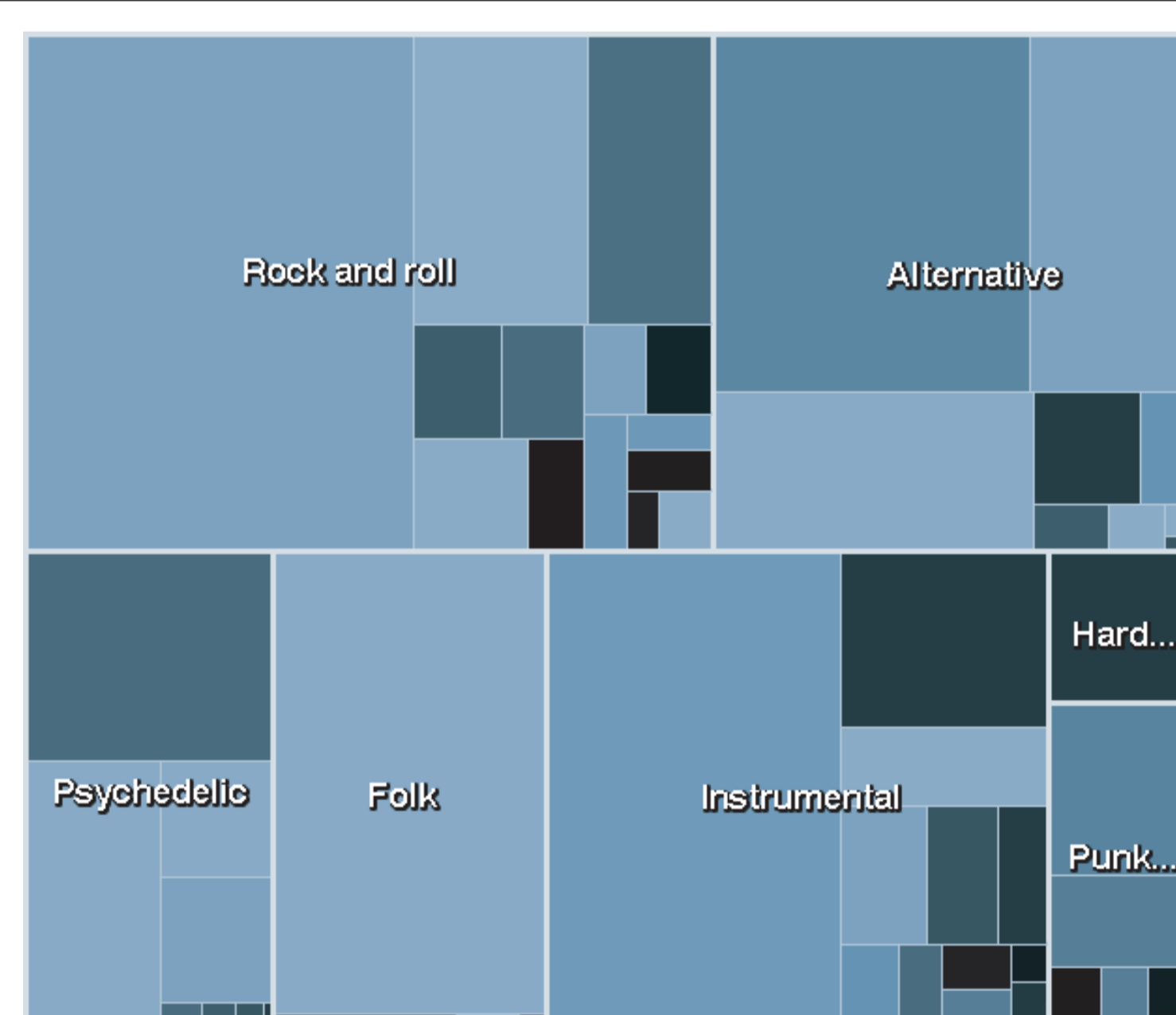
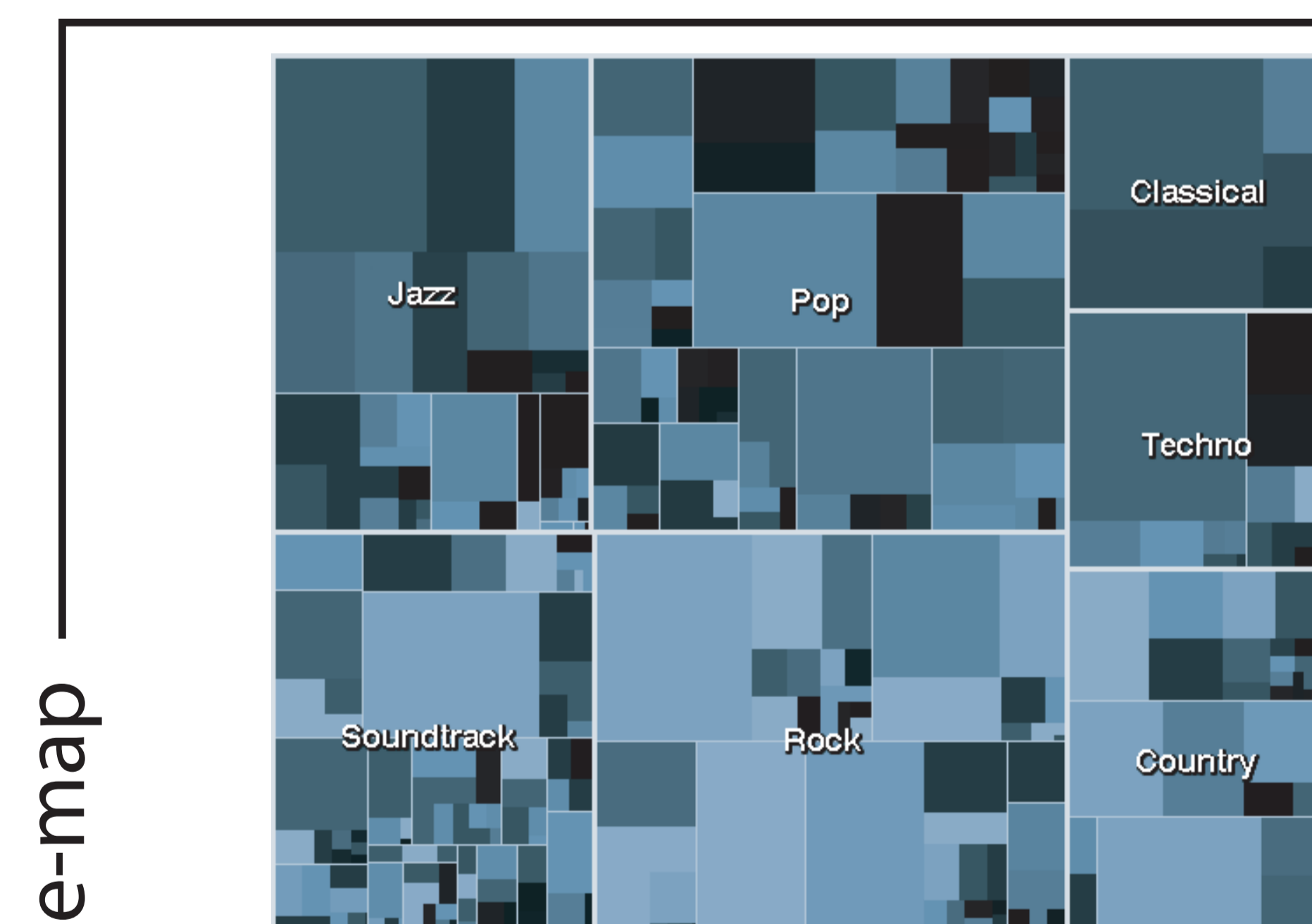
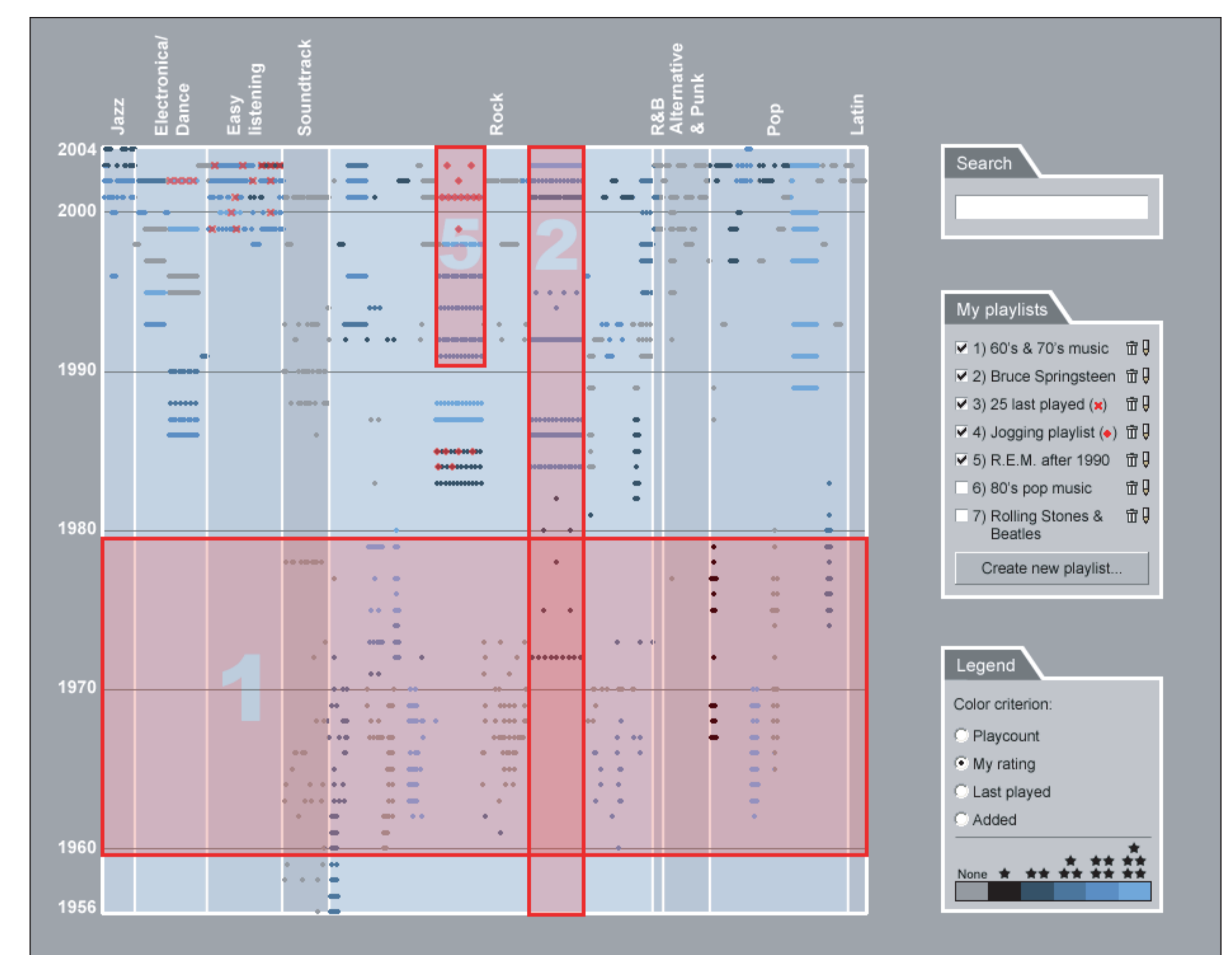
It uses the same principles as the disc visualization except for the time axis which is vertical.

It is a better representation than the disc if the library contains as many recent tracks as older ones.

The zooming functionality is more user-friendly thanks to the use of scrollbars.

The proportions of the sectors (and sub-sectors) are less easy to determine than with the disc visualization.

The placement of the tracks is easier to determine as it is comparable to standard scatterplots.



Each genre is recursively divided into sub-genres and artists. The size of each corresponding rectangle is proportional to the number of tracks.

The color (of the dots and the sectors) can match any numerical attributes (e.g., playcount, rating).

The tree-map visualization is useful for having an overview of the library but not for playlist management (the individual tracks can not be distinguished).

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