Researching a Work of Art

About This Guide

The following guide will give you resources and strategies for researching a work of art. Use the links below to jump to a specific section:

Internet Resources
Article Databases
Image Databases
Online Reference Resource
Finding Materials in ALICAT
Finding Materials in ConnectNY
Search Strategy

Prepared by Prof. Elayne Gardstein, 09/21/2011 - 516.877.3563 / gardstein@adelphi.edu

Internet Resources

http://www.artlex.com/
ArtLex: Art Dictionary: an art lexicon or dictionary of over 3,000 visual culture terms, with images, cross-references to related terms, links to other websites, and shortcuts to longer entries.

http://www.metmuseum.org/works_of_art/collection_database/
Collection Database—Metropolitan Museum of Art

http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/
Heilbrunn Timeline of Art History—Metropolitan Museum of Art: a chronological, geographical, and thematic exploration of the history of art from around the world.

http://www.umich.edu/~motherha/
Mother of All Art and Art History Links: gateway from the School of Art & Design at the University of Michigan to over 400 academic, studio, museum and commercial sites, with links to online exhibits, image collections and research resources.

http://www.nga.gov/collection/
National Gallery of Art Collection: links to specific works of art, selected online tours, in-depth studies and education resources.

Article Databases

http://libproxy.adelphi.edu:2048/login?
Art Full Text: covers a broad range of subject areas, from Computers in Art to Art History, Fashion Design to Sculpture. Includes indexing from 1984 and select full text dating back to 1997.
JSTOR: a searchable scholarly archive providing the full text of journal articles in business, economics, history, political science, literature, sociology, as well as other key fields in the humanities, social sciences, and physical sciences. Links to images in ARTstor.

Image Databases

ARTstor: Contains over one million digital images of works of art, architecture and archaeology from all periods and from diverse cultures, with accompanying software for searching, viewing and creating presentations.

CAMIO: Catalog of Art Museum Images Online includes works of art from around the world contributed and described by leading museums. All content is rights-cleared for educational use. Includes New York City museums: Metropolitan Museum of Art, Frick Collection, Asia Society, Whitney Museum of American Art.

Online Reference Resource


Finding Materials in ALICAT

AlicatPLUS is a new "google-like" discovery tool. It allows you to search our ALICAT catalog using a broad keyword search, returning enhanced results. AlicatPLUS is best used with broad search topics. It allows you to see what the library has to offer in a particular area.

or

Alicat Classic: If you know what you're searching however, it would be better to use the advanced search features of the ALICAT catalog (e.g. Author, title, etc...).

Finding Materials in ConnectNY

Connect NY is a combined catalog of 15 participating academic libraries in New York State; the ConnectNY book collection now numbers over 9 million volumes. If Adelphi does not own the books you need or if our copies are in use, you may request books with an 'AVAILABLE' status through the Connect NY catalog or through a link from Alicat. Items will be delivered to the Adelphi location you specify and can be returned there.
1. **Accession Number**: This unique number identifies a work of art often by the year it entered a museum’s collection, followed by the order in which it arrived that year, sometimes followed by numbers or letters indicating the item as part of a group. Insert accession number into search box on museum’s website to search for information about the work of art. For example, use the search box on the upper left of the screen at [http://www.metmuseum.org/](http://www.metmuseum.org/) for a work in the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

2. Use the Metropolitan Museum of Art’s Heilbrunn Timeline of Art History, “a chronological, geographical, and thematic exploration of the history of art from around the world.” This source includes links to artists’ biographies, maps, timelines, thematic essays, specific works of art, art movements and styles, materials and techniques, and a technical glossary. [http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/](http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/)


4. Search **ALICAT** and **ConnectNY** for books. Search for artist as keyword or subject. Subject headings may have more specific subheadings such as catalogs, criticism and exhibitions.

5. Use Adelphi login to search **Oxford Art Online**, check off **Grove Art Online** for most detailed results. Articles on artists feature biography, commissions, work, style, technique, chronology, critical reception and bibliography. Check off **Concise History of Art Terms** for materials, techniques, styles and foreign visual art words.

6. Use Adelphi login to access **JSTOR** for full text articles. With advanced search, enter accession number of work of art, open + sign next to Art and Art History and check the 3 Metropolitan Museum journals. Broaden search by searching for the artist in the 3 Metropolitan Museum journals and check 2 additional journals (Art Bulletin and Burlington Magazine).

7. Use Adelphi login to access **Art Full Text** for articles. With advanced search, narrow by document type, such as feature article, exhibit; view all results, full text, pdf, peer reviewed. Use links on left side of screen for more results.

8. Use Adelphi login to access **ARTstor** to search for images of works of art.