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ART HISTORY: A RESEARCH GUIDE

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GETTING HELP WITH YOUR RESEARCH

- Visit the Reference Desk during the Library's open hours (see above)
- Call a librarian at the Reference Desk: 718.636.3704
- Email a librarian: libref@pratt.edu
- Follow the steps of the Information Literacy guide at http://library.pratt.edu/info_lit.html

AT PRATT: FINDING BOOKS, JOURNALS & ARTICLES

1. PrattCat (Pratt Library Catalog): <http://prattcat.pratt.edu/>
 - Search for books, journals, magazines (*NOT ARTICLES*), newsletters, newspapers, etc.
 - Search for items owned by the Pratt Institute Libraries (Brooklyn and Manhattan Libraries)
2. Article Databases: <http://library.pratt.edu/databases.html>
 - Allows searching for articles from various publications in a variety of disciplines
 - Sometimes the full-text of articles can be found along with citations
 - Can be used on and off-campus; for outside use see: <http://library.pratt.edu/proxy.html>

REFERENCE BOOKS AT PRATT LIBRARY, BROOKLYN (Browse Call #'s 700-709...)

There are a number of reference books that you might find useful by visiting the Reference collection near the Reference Desk. Reference books allow you to get general, introductory information on your topic; help you formulate and refine your topic; get quick facts; as well as provide lists (or bibliographies) of other research materials that could be useful to your research. There are many reference book titles for art historical research (browse the call number areas 700-709 of the Reference Collection).

OXFORD ART ONLINE—ART E-REFERENCE TOOL: <http://library.pratt.edu/databases.html>

Oxford Art Online allows you to search one to four art reference online resources at once. Use these e-reference resources to begin your research, as they will provide good introductory information for your topic. Additionally, they will provide information for art terms throughout the research process.

The Four Reference Resources Included in Oxford Art Online:

1. Encyclopedia of Aesthetics (1998)

“This encyclopedia surveys the full breadth of critical thought on art, culture, and society; it is a comprehensive survey of major concepts, thinkers, and debates about the meaning, uses, and value of all the arts – from painting and sculpture to literature, music, theater, dance, television, film, and popular culture. Of special interest are in-depth surveys of Western aesthetics and broad coverage of non-Western traditions and theories of art.” (Oxford Art Online)

2. Grove Art Online Dictionary (1996)

“*Grove Art Online* is today's foremost scholarly art encyclopedia covering all aspects of Western and non-Western visual art. It includes the full text of *The Dictionary of Art*, edited by Jane Turner

(1996, 34 volumes) – the landmark reference work containing more than 45,000 articles (more than 21,000 biographies and 500,000 bibliographical citations) contributed by 6,700 scholars from 120 countries....*Grove Art Online* [since 2005] offers over 5,000 searchable and embedded art images, maps, and line drawings.” (Oxford Art Online)

3. The Oxford Companion to Western Art (2001)

“*The Oxford Companion to Western Art* contains more than 2,600 entries, and provides discriminating and reliable coverage of over 1,700 artists and their work. Articles give fresh treatment to topics of contemporary interest, including art movements, theory, and criticism. In addition to thorough regional and cultural surveys, this publication lists all relevant museums and galleries under the city of their location, such as Barcelona and Moscow. In *Oxford Art Online*, these entries are fully searchable and updated periodically with new death dates and corrections.” (Oxford Art Online)

4. The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Art Terms

“*The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Art Terms* provides 1,800 entries on art terms, critical periods, and styles in the visual arts. The quick reference format includes materials, techniques, and foreign terms essential for navigating the current visual climate. Featuring clear definitions of movements and media, from Baroque to Minimalism, aquatint to raku, and canvas to Venetian glass, this publication provides succinct and accessible explanations of art terms.” (Oxford Art Online)

ARTICLE DATABASES FOR ART HISTORY TOPICS: <http://library.pratt.edu/databases.html>

ABM: Art Bibliographies Modern

“ABM is the premier source of information on modern and contemporary arts dating from the late 19th century onwards, including photography since its invention.” (CSA)

Art Full-Text / Art Retrospective

“Two databases have been conveniently combined into one, allowing users to search art journalism dating back to 1929. Art Full Text has been updated to offer coverage of Latin American, Canadian, Asian and non-Western art, new artists, contemporary art, exhibition reviews, and feminist criticism. Full text is available for some journals from 1997 to the present.” (Wilson Web)

Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals

“The Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals database offers a comprehensive listing of journal articles on architecture and design, including bibliographic descriptions on subjects such as the history and practice of architecture, landscape architecture, city planning, historic preservation, and interior design and decoration.” (CSA)

BHA: Bibliography of the History of Art

“BHA is the most comprehensive art bibliography available worldwide, covering European and American visual arts from late antiquity to the present.... Broad in scope, BHA’s citations encompass fine arts—painting, sculpture, drawing, prints, architecture—as well as decorative and applied arts—crafts, graphic arts, and folk and popular art among them. It includes and extends the coverage of its two predecessor art indexes: Répertoire d’Art et d’Archéologie (RAA) from 1973 to 1989 and International Repertory of the Literature of Art (RILA) from 1975 to 1989.” (CSA)

DAAI: Design and Applied Arts Index

“DAAI is the leading source of abstracts and bibliographic records for articles, news items, and reviews published in design and applied arts periodicals from 1973 onwards....DAAI covers both new designers and the development of design and the applied arts since the mid-19th century, surveying disciplines including ceramics, glass, jewellery, wood, metalsmithing, graphic design, fashion and clothing, textiles, furniture, interior design, architecture, computer aided design, Web design, computer-generated graphics, animation, product design, industrial design, garden design, and landscape architecture.” (CSA)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

? Why use a database?

To find journal articles on your topic. Remember, you can't use PrattCat to do this because it does not contain the titles of individual articles, only the titles of journals in which articles are published. In addition to articles, many databases also include other kinds of publications, including reports, newsletters, and books.

? What's a citation and why is it important?

A citation is a reference for an item (whether the item is an article, book, transcript, Web site, etc.). Citations allow readers to identify (and locate) the original material referenced by the citation. Citations are important for locating articles, because *if you don't have all the elements of a citation, you won't be able to locate an article. Important elements for a citation are:*

- Author's name
- Article title
- Periodical title
- Volume and/or issue number
- Date (Month/Season, Year)
- Pages

! Remember: Once you have a citation for an article, search for the periodical by title in PrattCat: this allows you to see if Pratt owns the paper version of the article (if the full-text of the article isn't available in a database).

? What if I want to obtain a book or article that the Pratt Libraries don't have?

Go to the Reference Desk on the first floor and ask for assistance. We can help you determine if the item is available at a local public or academic library. We might be able to grant you a referral for access elsewhere.

BEYOND PRATT: FINDING ITEMS AT OTHER LIBRARIES:

1. WorldCat: <http://library.pratt.edu/databases.html>

WorldCat allows you to conveniently search at once the collections of libraries worldwide. It is useful for viewing the holdings of various public and academic libraries locally, nationally, and internationally. When you click on the "Display All Libraries" link for an item in WorldCat, libraries located in New York State are featured first, for your research convenience. You may also place ILL requests for books in WorldCat.

2. Local Libraries

Directly view the websites and search the online catalogs of local libraries for information on accessing these libraries' collections. Of particular interest to those doing undergraduate research in art history, the following local libraries are invaluable resources (Grad students are able to access the following, plus other local private art libraries. See individual library websites for information on their access policies):

- NYPL Humanities Library (use CATNYP for searching the research library catalog)
<http://nypl.org/research/chss/index.html>
- The Frick Art Reference Library (FRESCO is the online catalog)
<http://www.frick.org/library/>
- The Central Library's Arts Division at Brooklyn Public Library (BPL)
<http://www.brooklynpubliclibrary.org/arts.jsp>

? What if I need a book or article not owned by Pratt or any local libraries?

Pratt can request items outside of the New York City area through Interlibrary Loan (ILL). ILL requests can take two weeks or more to arrive, so this isn't an option if you have limited time. For more info, ask at the Reference Desk or see: <http://library.pratt.edu/ill.html>

Need help or have questions? No problem. The Reference Desk can further assist you in-person, by phone or email!