

Finding Images Online - Selected Websites

For other resources check our Sawyer Library Art History Resource Guide.

Search Engines

[Google](#)

<http://www.google.com>

One of the largest and most popular search engines, Google searches over 3 billion web pages. Google Image Search is the "most comprehensive" on the Web. Search "billions of images" in all subjects by selecting the "Images" tab or by adding "pics" or "pictures" to search terms. The Advanced Image Search can limit by size, color, file type, and domain.

[Yahoo!](#)

<http://www.yahoo.com>

Yahoo! has an "Images" search tab, a search box and an Advanced Image Search like Google's that searches more than 1.6 billion images. Yahoo! Picture Gallery is a "free collection" of over 400,000 photos and illustrations that can be browsed by categories or by key words.

[AlltheWeb](#)

<http://www.alltheweb.com/?ek=0>

A major search engine providing access to millions of images. Select "Pictures" or "Video" tab before (or after) initial search. Can limit by file formats and image types in advanced search. Formerly available from Overture Services, AlltheWeb is now part of Yahoo!.

[Altavista](#)

<http://www.altavista.com>

AltaVista is another large search engine that provides access to hundreds of millions of images and other multimedia files. Select "Images" tab to limit search to photos and graphics.

[Ditto](#)

<http://www.ditto.com>

Ditto is a "visual search engine" that links to websites through pictures. Search by specific subjects or browse lists of topics. Ditto recently added over "500 million new pictures."

[Picsearch](#)

<http://picsearch.com>

Picsearch, based in Stockholm, Sweden, is a free image search engine that indexes sites by pictures and images, including animations, linking to free and commercial sites. Advanced search options include limiting by type, e.g., images and/or animations, color and/or black and white, and searching by categories such as "Animals," "Classic Cars," "Landmarks," or "Legends" in the Image Directory.

General Sites

[NYPL Digital](#)

<http://www.nypl.org/digital>

The New York Public Library's Digital Gallery contains over 550,000 images, including primary sources, taken from books, magazines, manuscripts, posters, ephemera, newspapers, photographs, and prints in the NYPL's collections. Databases include online exhibitions and the Mid-Manhattan Picture Collection Online covering New York City, African-Americans, fashion, clothes, and U.S. History.

[Finding Images Online. Directory of Web Image Sites](#)

<http://www.berinsteinresearch.com/fiolinks.htm>

A "personal website" created and maintained by Paula Berinstein, author and former librarian, with an extensive list of links to specific subjects such as U.S. states and cities, animals, architecture, travel, maps, and art.

[Digital Librarian: Images](#)

<http://www.digital-librarian.com/images.html>

This is just one category out of many covered by "Digital Librarian" Margaret V. Anderson, Cortland, New York, who created and maintains this website. There are hundreds of links, many annotated, to image collections from all over the world ranging from "Abandoned Places" to a "World War II Poster Collection." Includes "how to" search hints, e.g., for foreign language sites like the Musee du quai Branly in Paris.

Government Sites

[USA.gov](#)

<http://www.USA.gov/>

Many government departments have image collections that can be found by searching their individual websites or USA.gov (formerly FirstGov), the official "portal" to U.S. Government websites. In USA.gov go to Reference Center, then U.S. Government Photos and Multimedia, to search departments and topics alphabetically. Most government images are free, some may be licensed. Some interesting sites and their direct links include:

[Library of Congress Prints & Photographs Online Catalog](#)

<http://www.loc.gov/rr/print/catalog.html>

Although this online catalog lists only part of the Library of Congress's huge Prints and Photographs Collection, it includes access to about one million images of subjects such as the Civil War, aviation, Native Americans, Presidents, and First Ladies. Check the "What's New" section for additions to the Collection. [American Memory](#), the historical section of the National Digital Library, contains over 7 million items from more than 100 historical collections in art, history, business, etc.

[Smithsonian Photographic Services](#)

<http://photo2.si.edu>

The Smithsonian Institution Photographic Services (SPS) online collection contains over 15,000 current and historic images on specific subjects, e.g., earthquakes, volcanoes in Mexico, and fireworks, but this is only a small part of the millions of images from its extensive museum collections and from around the world taken by Smithsonian photographers. [Smithsonian Images](#), a part of the SPS, offers access to selected images from the Smithsonian museums, galleries, research centers, and the National Zoo. You can search by keyword or "shop" categories such as "Air and Space," "Gems and Minerals," and "American" or "Military" history. The [Smithsonian Photography Initiative](#) is a recent project aimed at making photographs from its museums and research centers available. The SI Research Information System has an "Image Gallery" that contains over 138,000 "visual records" (only a part of its collections).

[National Aeronautics and Space Administration](#)

<http://nix.ksc.nasa.gov>

NASA's Image eXchange (NIX) "meta-search engine" is a great source for space, solar system, and aircraft images, which can be browsed by subject categories. There are also links to the databases at individual NASA facilities including NASA headquarters and the Kennedy (KSC) and Johnson (JSC) Space Centers.

[NOAA Photo Library](#)

<http://www.photolib.noaa.gov>

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Photo Library contains images of weather, space, oceans, and marine animals from agencies such as the National Ocean Service,

National Weather Service, and National Marine Fisheries Service, as well as the Northeast Fisheries Science Center historical collection from about 1870 on.

Photograph Collections

[FreeFoto.com](http://www.freefoto.com)

<http://www.freefoto.com>

The "largest collection" of free photos available to non-commercial users with over 100,000 images. Searchable by keyword or by over 3000 categories and 140 sections including the United States, Europe, business, and nature.

[PhotoGraphicLibraries](http://www.photographiclibraries.com)

<http://www.photographiclibraries.com>

Photographic Libraries is London-based, but a member of the U.S. Department of Education's "Gateway to Educational Materials" (GEM). Provides extensive lists of links to collections of stock images, film, and photo archives including private and government collections.

[Creative Commons](http://creativecommons.org)

<http://creativecommons.org>

Creative Commons is a San Francisco based non-profit organization, originally developed by students and fellows at the Harvard and Stanford Law Schools with support from the Center for Public Domain. It offers free copyright licenses for images and other "creative works" so that material can be used in the public domain.

University Sites

[Boston University Libraries Instruction Services](http://www.bu.edu/library/instruction/findimages)

<http://www.bu.edu/library/instruction/findimages>

Boston University Libraries provide an excellent guide to "Finding Images on the Web," a site created and maintained by Ruth S. Thomas, Art/Art History Bibliographer. It includes information on copyright, finding links to image collections, and "how to" download and insert images.

[Perry-Castañeda Library Map Collection](http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/united_states.html)

http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/united_states.html

This collection of over 11,000 electronic maps, although only a small part of the University of Texas at Austin Libraries' Map Collection, is one of the most comprehensive online map collections. It contains U.S. national, state, historical, election, and census maps, maps of the

world and other countries, and links to other map sites, including U.S. government sites.

[Ad* Access](#)

<http://scriptorium.lib.duke.edu/adaccess/>

This database from the Rare Book, Manuscript, and Special Collections Library at Duke University contains over 7000 images of U.S. and Canadian ads found in newspapers and magazines from 1911 to 1955. Five categories include Beauty and Hygiene, Radio, TV, Transportation, and World War I. The Duke University Library includes other collections of ads: [Emergence of Advertising in America: 1850-1920](#), and [Medicine and Madison Avenue](#).

rev. 4/07