

Art History Resource Guide

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This guide provides selected information resources on art history. Included are Sawyer Library subscription databases, reference books, and selected websites freely available on the internet.

Periodical Indexes and Full-Text Databases

[Art Full Text with Art Museum Image Gallery](#)

Art Full Text offers abstracts, indexing, and some full-text plus links to full-text of an international array of peer-selected publications, with coverage of Latin American, Canadian, Asian and other non-Western art, new artists, contemporary art, exhibition reviews, and feminist criticism. The Art Museum Image Gallery is an online collection of high-quality, digital documentation of more than 90,000 works of art from around the world. Works from major European, American, and Canadian artists in the collections of member museums are included. Cultures and time periods represented range from contemporary art, Native American and Inuit art, to ancient Greek, Roman, and Egyptian works, along with Japanese and Chinese works.

[Oxford Art Online \(includes Grove\)](#)

Oxford Art Online includes *The Oxford Companion to Western Art* (2001), *Encyclopedia of Aesthetics*, *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Art Terms*, and Grove Art Online which contains

the searchable full-text of *The Grove Dictionary of Art* (1996, 34 vols).

[ARTstor](#)

ARTstor describes itself as being "a digital library of approximately 700,000 images in the areas of art, architecture, the humanities, and social sciences with a set of tools to view, present, and manage images for research and pedagogical purposes." For more information, read the Sawyer Library [blog entry](#) on ARTstor.

[JSTOR](#)

JSTOR offers the searchable "archives of over one thousand leading academic journals across the humanities, social sciences, and sciences, as well as select monographs and other materials valuable for academic work." The archives of ninety scholarly art and art history journals such as *The British Museum Quarterly* (1926-1973) and *Dumbarton Oaks Papers* (1941-2005) are included in this database.

[DAAI: Design and Applied Arts Index](#)

Although DAAI does not provide any full-text, it does abstract and index 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.

[Academic Search Complete](#)

Our best general research database, this online resource provides indexing and abstracting for over 8,000 journals of which 3,600 are peer-reviewed publications, with full-text access for nearly 4,700 of the titles. Indexing and abstracting coverage is generally from the mid-1980's and full-text coverage for many titles dates back to 1990. You may limit search results to full-text and peer-reviewed articles. Includes over 100 journals pertaining to the arts including art history, design, architecture, and interior design.

[Humanities International Complete](#)

This database provides the full-text of hundreds of journals, books and other published sources from around the world. Humanities International Complete provides indexing and abstracting for over 1,700 journals plus unique full-text content, much of which is not found in other databases.

[Academic OneFile](#)

Provides indexing and abstracting of more than 8,000 journals and magazines in the humanities (including the visual arts), social sciences, and science and technology. You may limit search results to full-text or peer-reviewed articles or articles with images. Full-text is provided for about two-thirds of the publications.

[Oxford Journals Online](#)

Provides online access to more than 150 scholarly journals from the Oxford University Press, many with full-text back to 1998. Includes several art history journals.

[Credo Reference](#)

An online reference library of encyclopedias, dictionaries, and thesauri. Includes a dozen art dictionaries and encyclopedias plus biographical, historic, and religious reference books. Some of the titles in this collection are [The Thames and Hudson Dictionary of Art and Artists](#), [The Bridgeman Art Library Archive](#), and [The Thames & Hudson Encyclopaedia of Impressionism](#).

[Oxford Reference Online Premium](#)

The Oxford University Press' online reference library includes a small collection of well-regarded art and architecture titles such as [The Oxford Dictionary of Art](#) and [A Dictionary of Twentieth-Century Art](#).

[Gale Virtual Reference Library](#)

This collection of online reference works includes [Arts and Humanities Through the Eras](#), a five-volume set that provides concise entries on the milestones and movements in the arts, literature, music, and religion from ancient Egypt, ancient Greece and Rome, medieval and renaissance Europe, through the age of Baroque and Enlightenment.

[Biography Resource Center](#)

Combines over 400,000 biographies from over 90 Gale Group reference sources. Includes the complete *Marquis Who's Who* and full-text articles from 250 magazines.

[Encyclopedia Britannica](#)

Provides a searchable *Britannica* plus related websites.

[LexisNexis Academic](#)

Contains a massive database of worldwide newspapers. Provides full-text searching of newspapers, wire services, and transcripts of broadcasts. Includes art reviews. Newspaper coverage generally starts in the late eighties or early nineties. Sawyer Library also has [The New York Times \(1851-2001\)](#) database which offers searchable full-text and full-image articles from the New York Times from 1851 through 2001 and includes digital reproductions of every page from every issue in downloadable PDF files.

Directories and Metasites

[Art History Resources on the Web](#)

<http://witcombe.sbc.edu/ARTHLinks.html>

Maintained by Chris Witcombe, Professor of Art History at Sweet Briar College, Virginia, this

site is a massive directory of art history resources. Categories include historical periods (e.g. art of the middle ages), cultures (e.g. ancient Egypt), and geographic regions (e.g. Oceania).

[Voice of the Shuttle: Art and Art History](#)

<http://vos.ucsb.edu/browse.asp?id=2707>

The Voice of the Shuttle (a huge academically oriented directory to the humanities) is maintained by Alan Liu and a development team at the University of California, Santa Barbara, English Department, and this section is devoted to art and art history websites. Topics include: Artists & Works by Chronology; Museums, Institutes, & Centers; Galleries & Exhibitions; Art Theory & Politics; and Art & Technology. Some referrals include a one-line annotation. Unfortunately, one of the hazards of a very large directory is that some of the links cannot be found.

[Intute](#)

<http://www.intute.ac.uk/>

Intute, produced by a group of universities in the United Kingdom, describes itself as "a free online service providing access to the very best web resources for education and research." Each of the listed resources is accompanied by a useful description, evaluation, and details such as author, designer, and publisher of the website. Look for art history websites in the "Visual Arts" section of the "Arts and Humanities" pages of Intute.

[ArtSource](#)

<http://www.ilpi.com/artsource/artsourcehome.html>

This is an index to art and architecture resources available through the web. It includes artists' projects, events, image collections, news media, programs, electronic exhibitions, organizations, and links to university art and architecture libraries.

[The History of Art Virtual Library](#)

<http://www.chart.ac.uk/vlib/>

"The History of Art Virtual Library is a collection of links relating to Art History and computer applications in Art History. The site is sponsored by CHArt, the Computers and History of Art Group. This site is aimed at everybody interested in art, but it has a special focus on the academic study of Art History." The website includes links to resources on Imaging & Digitization and Research Tools & Directories.

[Virtual Library Museums Pages](#)

<http://icom.museum/vlmp/>

A browsable and searchable international directory of online museums and museum related resources.

[MuseumStuff.com: Massachusetts Museums Guide](#)

<http://www.museumstuff.com/museums/usa/massachusetts/index.html>

This section of the website lists over 200 Massachusetts museums and related organizations, large and small. Main listings are alphabetical by name. There is also an annotated list just of

"popular venues." The main page for this site, www.museumstuff.com, describes itself as a "World Gateway to Museums," - a locator of museums on the internet.

Museum and Gallery Websites

[Web Gallery of Art](http://www.wga.hu/index.html)

<http://www.wga.hu/index.html>

Self-described as "a virtual museum and searchable database of European painting and sculpture of the Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque periods (1100-1850), currently containing over 13,500 reproductions. Commentaries on pictures, biographies of artists are available." Search, browse, or choose one of 15 possible "guided tours," covering topics such as "Painting in the Low Countries (1400-1800)" and a "Visit to the Sistine Chapel in Vatican." There is even an art glossary that will open in a new page, and an Artist Index that runs along the bottom of all pages. This website was created by Emil Kren and Daniel Marx, and it is hosted by the Computer Networking Center of KFKI Research Institute for Particle and Nuclear Physics of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

[Metropolitan Museum of Art: Timeline of Art History](http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/)

<http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/>

"The Timeline of Art History is a chronological, geographical, and thematic exploration of the history of art from around the world, as illustrated especially by the Metropolitan Museum of Art's collection." The Timeline is researched and written by the Museum's curatorial, conservation, and education staff.

[Smithsonian: Art and Design](http://www.si.edu/art_and_design/)

http://www.si.edu/art_and_design/

The Smithsonian Institution, "the world's largest museum complex and research organization," is comprised of 16 museums (14 museums and the National Zoo are in Washington, D.C., and 2 museums are in New York City), and the combined collections contain 142 million objects. The Art and Design section of the Smithsonian website lets users explore by topic (artists, type of art, region or culture) or view several online exhibits such as "A Brush With History: Paintings from the Portrait Gallery," and an exploration of the African Art Museum Collection.

[The Getty: Explore Art](http://www.getty.edu/art/)

<http://www.getty.edu/art/>

What started as a small museum founded by J. Paul Getty in 1953, has evolved into the Getty Center, an expanded museum with research, conservation, and grant programs administered by the J. Paul Getty Trust. The Explore Art section of the website allows browsing portions of the Getty collection by artist, object type or medium, and subject. Users may also access overviews of current and past exhibits.

[The Collection: National Gallery of Art](#)

<http://www.nga.gov/collection/>

Search the Collection of the National Gallery by artist, title, or a combination of criteria. Choose a medium or school and tour the Collection. Includes PDF versions of foreign language gallery guides and in-depth studies on specific artists or works of art.

[Museum of Fine Arts](#)

<http://www.mfa.org/>

This is the website of Boston's premier art institution, the Museum of Fine Arts. Find out about current exhibitions, film showings, and other doings at MFA. Click on the "Collections" link to see art reproductions of selected works from the Museum's holdings.

Miscellaneous Websites

[Artcyclopedia](#)

<http://www.artcyclopedia.com>

A free directory of fine arts images. Coverage of 1200 art sites and 7,500 artists. Search by artist or title of work, or browse by art movement, medium, or subject. Additional features include links to recent articles on art, short essays about many of the artists, and information on works for sale.

[Writing in Art History](#)

<http://www.unc.edu/depts/wcweb/handouts/arthistory.html>

This webpage has been produced as a handout by the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to help students with "several common types of art history assignments," by discussing "various strategies and resources that will help you write your art history papers." A similar guide is also available from the [Dartmouth Writing Program website](#).

[Mathematics in Art and Architecture](#)

<http://www.math.nus.edu.sg/aslaksen/teaching/math-art-arch.shtml>

This webpage was created by Helmer Aslaksen of the Department of Mathematics at the National University of Singapore, to accompany his course by the same name. Topics include pyramids, the Golden Ratio, polyhedra, perspective, symmetry, and kaleidoscopes.

Selected Print Resources

[The Grove Dictionary of Art](#)

REF N31 .D5 1996

This 34 volume reference work on "all aspects of the visual arts in all places at all times" covers both Western and non-Western art, artists, movements, theories, social aspects, and cultural

influences. Volume 34 contains the index to the set. This set is also available online in the [Oxford Art Online](#) database.

[Encyclopedia of World Art](#)

REF N31 .E533

McGraw-Hill published this comprehensive encyclopedia which contains signed, in-depth articles. Abundant illustrative plates, drawings, and photographs make this encyclopedia an excellent source for images.

[Encyclopedia of Visual Art](#)

REF N31. E55 1983

Volumes 1 through 5 of this 10 volume encyclopedia covers the history of art by period and movement, and volumes 6 through 10 consist of a biographical dictionary of artists. Lots of color photographs. Published by Encyclopaedia Britannica International.

[From Abacus to Zeus : a Handbook of Art History](#)

REF N33 .P5 1998

Designed as a supplement to *Janson's History of Art, Revised Fifth Edition*, this handbook includes terminology, iconography, Christian symbols and attributes of saints, maps, and line drawings with reference to specific works of art and illustrations.

[Dictionary of Women Artists](#)

REF N8354 .D53 1997

Over 600 entries on women artists born before 1945 with an emphasis on painters and sculptors. Limited to the Western tradition from medieval to modern period periods. Each artist is represented by a biography, exhibition chronology, and critical assessment of her art.

[Dictionary of Subjects and Symbols in Art](#)

REF N7560 .H34 1979b

Useful handbook which describes "Christian and classical themes as they are found in the West, the latter mostly from the Renaissance or later" that appear in the work of artists.