



## ERC Quick Guide: Art Research

The ERC has many sources of information for art research, such as books, journals, DVDs and specialized databases. These materials can be found on Levels 1 & 2 of the ERC, as well as online through the library's Research Databases. Databases can also be accessed from off-campus with a student's name and Cougar ID number.

► **General art reference books** are found on Level 1 of the ERC, shelved in the 700s. Reference books do not check out but you can make photocopies from them. Useful reference titles for locating information on artists and works of art include:

*Art Across America* (Ref 759.13 G366a) 3 volumes  
*Biographical Dictionary of Artists* (Ref 709.22 B615)  
*Britannica Encyclopedia of American Art* (Ref 709.73 B862)  
*Dictionary of Art, The* (Ref 703 D554) 34 volumes  
*Encyclopedia of Sculpture, The* (Ref 735.23 E564) 3 volumes  
*Gardner's Art Through the Ages* (Ref 709 G227g 2001)  
*Janson's History of Art, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition* (Ref 709 J35h 2001) Each edition has different examples,  
*Janson's History of Art, 7<sup>th</sup> Edition* (Ref 709 J35h 2007) so check both of them...  
*Index to Artistic Biography* (Ref 709.22 H388i) 3 volumes  
*Praeger Encyclopedia of Art* (Ref 703 P897) 5 volumes  
*Who Was Who in American Art: 1564-1975* (Ref 709.22 W6284) 3 volumes

► **Columbus Museum of Art books** - Reference books about the Columbus Museum of Art's collection are held at the Reference Desk on Level 1. Ask a librarian for access.

*200 Selections from the Permanent Collection* (Ref 708.171 C726t)  
*American Collections, The* (Ref 709.73 C726a)  
*Catalog of the Collection* (Ref 708.171 C726ca)  
*Choice by Choice: Celebrating Notable Acquisitions 1976-1986* (Ref 708.171 C726c)  
*Frederick W. Schumacher Collections, The* (Ref 708 C726f)  
*Impressionism and European Modernism* (Ref 709 C726i)

► **Library catalog** - "CSLink" - <http://cslink.csc.edu>

The ERC has over 1,000 art-related books and audiovisual materials. Search *CSLink* to locate items from the ERC's collection to check out. For more information on how to use *CSLink*, see "ERC Quick Guide: Searching CSLink." Students and staff may request more items free of charge through OhioLINK - [www.ohiolink.edu](http://www.ohiolink.edu)

► **Art & Architecture journals** in print are found on Level 2 of the ERC:

*American Art Review* (in-depth articles on American artists and American schools of art)  
*Art in America* (articles on artists past and present)  
*Smithsonian* (articles on American art and artists)  
*Timeline* (some historical American art - specifically Ohio)

## ►Research Databases - Located on the ERC's web site or through OhioLINK

[ERC Research Databases](http://www.csc.edu/library) - [www.csc.edu/library](http://www.csc.edu/library) —> Then, click on “Research Databases”

*Academic Search Complete*

*Grove Art Online* - You'll find the link to this database under “Selected Databases A-Z.”

[OhioLINK Research Databases](http://www.ohiolink.edu) - [www.ohiolink.edu](http://www.ohiolink.edu) —> Click on “Library Databases (articles and more).” Next, click on “Subject,” then “Art and Architecture”

*Art & Architecture Digital Media* ◊ *The ART Collection* ◊ *Art Full Text* ◊ *Bibliography of the History of Art* ◊ *Index to 19<sup>th</sup> Century American Art Periodicals* ◊ *Oxford Reference, Art and Architecture* ◊ *Saskia Art History Images* ◊ *SCIPIO: Art and Rare Book Sales/Auction Catalogs* ◊ *Digital Video Collection* (art films within historical contexts)

## ►Online art history resources and magazines

- ◊ Use Google's Image Search (<http://images.google.com>) for an online image of the work you are researching, or to find similar works.
- ◊ Columbus Museum of Art ([www.columbusmuseum.org](http://www.columbusmuseum.org)) - Be aware that the Columbus Museum of Art does not tend to reproduce images of the art they own online, which is a common practice for art museums.
- ◊ “art history resources on the web” (<http://witcombe.sbc.edu/ARTHLinks.html>) - A terrific site maintained by Christopher Witcombe, a professor of Art History at Sweet Briar College.
- ◊ *Art & Antiques* ([www.artandantiques.net](http://www.artandantiques.net)) - An online magazine for art collectors.

### ART RESEARCH HINTS:

**Your own careful observation of a work of art is your primary source of information.** Take time to look carefully at the artwork and write down everything you notice about it (i.e. color, brightness, sharpness, mood, dramatic elements, degree of realism, what you think it is about, etc). Also, record the artist's name, the title of the work, its medium (what it is made of), dimensions (if available) and who owns it (provenance).

To find more about WHO the artist is, do a **SUBJECT** search using last name, first name (or first name last name depending on the catalog or database).

Search any or all of the following as a **KEYWORD** search: **WHO** – the artist's name (i.e. Winslow Homer); **WHAT** – the title of the work of art. (Many different art pieces have the same title and one work may be known by many names so you might add the artist's name to the search (i.e. Last Supper AND DaVinci); **WHERE** – the country of origin of the artist (i.e. Egyptian, Italian, French, Greek, American, etc); **WHEN** – the period (date created) or style (i.e. Ancient Greek, Middle Ages, Byzantine, Gothic, High Renaissance, etc); **WHY** – the subject of the work (what the work is of or about) – If the subject of the work is a myth, look for books on mythology (i.e. *Gods and Heroes of Classical Antiquity*, Ref 704.947 A266g). If the subject is a Christian image, take a look at books on symbols (i.e. *Signs and Symbols in Christian Art*, Ref 704.9482 F352s or *Symbols and Allegories in Art*, Ref 704.946 B336s). If the subject of a painting is taken from daily life, it is a genre painting. **HOW** – the work is made, the medium (i.e. oil painting, sculpture, fresco, mosaic, etc).

## Questions? Ask a Librarian!

The Educational Resources Center (ERC) at Columbus State  
Columbus Hall

Reference Desk: 614.287.2460      Circulation Desk: 614.287.2464

<http://www.csc.edu/library>