**Key Resources for Library Research**

For Background Information

Dictionaries, encyclopedias, guides, and handbooks are excellent resources for gaining an overview of an unfamiliar subject. The library holds many more relevant titles than those listed here, so browsing the shelves near these resources can be very helpful.

* [*Oxford Art Online*](http://0-infotrac.galegroup.com.luna.wellesley.edu/itweb/mlin_m_wellcol?db=BioRC) [e-resource] – includes *Grove Art Online* – helpful for biographical info, coverage of the history of art in specific countries, cities, and archaeological sites; and detailed entries on art theory, movements, building types, and art materials and techniques.
* *A Dictionary of Art Terms and Techniques* Art Ref N33 .M36
* *Encyclopedia of World Art* Art Ref N31 .E533
* *International Dictionary of Art and Artists* Art RefN40 .I55 1990
* *Iconography of Christian Art* Art RefN7830 .S3513
* *Dictionary of Architecture* Art Ref NA31 .C86 1999
* *The Photography Encyclopedia* Art Ref TR9 .M39 1999

Ways to Find Books

1. Search the [Wellesley Library Catalog](http://luna.wellesley.edu/search/X) – a few tips:
   * use **truncation (use the \* key)** to save time - photograph\* for photography, photographer, photographs, etc.
   * for books **about** an artist, start with a **keyword** search. Also try a **subject** or **author** search. Keep in mind that you might have to expand your searches to books on broader topics such as Contemporary Chinese Artists or 20th Century Women Artists. Then check the index for your artist.

* find similar books by examining **subject terms** of a relevant book
* if you find a useful book, examine its ‘neighbors’ on the shelves. Books about the same topic are shelved together.

1. Use [**WorldCat**](http://0-firstsearch.oclc.org.luna.wellesley.edu/fsip?dbname=WorldCat&screen=advanced&done=referer) to find and request books (via **Interlibrary Loan**) we don’t own.
2. In a hurry? Get a [BLC](http://www.blc.org/library_user_services/mem_cats.html) (Boston Library Consortium) card at Clapp Library Reference Desk and borrow the book in-person from a nearby library.

Many Ways to Find Articles, Essays, Criticism, and Images

**Tips:** - use the same search techniques used for finding books (see above)

- consult the “Library Research Guides” (i.e. Art & Architecture, History, etc)

- Click on  to search for full-text articles in other databases subscribed to by Wellesley or to locate article in print edition of journal.

* SuperSearch

A great place to start looking for journal articles, books and almost everything else the library has, in one easy-to-use interface. To search with more precision, try the specialized databases listed below.

* Art Full Text – 1984-present

Indexes and abstracts major English-language art periodicals and museum bulletins. Continued database from Art Index Retrospective, below.

* Art Retrospective – 1929-1984

Database continues as Art Full Text, above.

* ARTbibliographies Modern - 1960–current

Provides full abstracts of journal articles, books, essays, exhibition catalogs, PhD dissertations, and exhibition reviews on all forms of modern and contemporary art.

* Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals– 1934–current; selective coverage back to 1741

Covers historical, aesthetic, and technical aspects of architecture (including urban planning, garden history, and historical preservation) for all periods and countries.

* Bibliography of the History of Art (BHA)/ International Bibliography of Art (IBA) – 1973-present

Covers the art and architecture of Europe and the Americas (4th century to modern) cited from art-related books, conference proceedings, dissertations, exhibitions and dealers' catalogs, and journal articles. Contains abstracts.

* [Academic Search Complete](http://0-search.epnet.com.luna.wellesley.edu/login.asp?profile=web&defaultdb=aph) (EBSCOhost)  
  Broad multidisciplinary selected full-text database that provides access to scholarly articles and popular magazine articles.
* [JSTOR](http://0-www.csa.com.luna.wellesley.edu/htbin/dbrng.cgi?username=brun08&access=brun0808&db=mla-set-c&adv=1) – coverage varies  
  Articles from selected scholarly journals (i.e. *Art Bulletin*, *Art Journal*). The years of coverage will vary but will most likely NOT have any content from the last 5 years.

More Help….

* [Citing your sources](http://www.wellesley.edu/Library/Research/citation.html) research guide (includes info about citation software – i.e. EndNote): <http://libguides.wellesley.edu/citation>
* Consult **bibliographies or footnotes** at the end of books and articles for titles to other sources.
* Email citations to yourself to save time and to stay organized.
* Remember to note the location of any books you find in the catalog. Your research may be interdisciplinary and you may find useful books both in Clapp Library and in the Art Library.
* using **truncation** symbols (\*) will work in most databases
* Try searching via Google Scholar (rather than Google).
* Art museums publish catalogs with information about objects in their collections. Also useful are guides and handbooks, which are simpler overviews of the collections. To find catalogs, search in the library catalog under the museum name and the sub-heading ‘catalogs’. Or simply do a keyword search using as many terms as you know (remember to separate terms with the word "AND". Ex/ museum AND fine arts AND boston AND photograph\* AND catalog\*.)

Please contact me if you have any other questions or need reference help:

**Brooke Henderson, Art Librarian,** [**bhenders@wellesley.edu**](mailto:bhenders@wellesley.edu) **781-283-3258**