
Oberlin College Library - Reference Guide Series

🌀 Basic Research Tools *For Studio Artists*

Dictionaries and Encyclopedias

Stroebel, Leslie D and Richard D Zakia. 1993. The Focal encyclopedia of photography. 3rd ed. xi, 914 p. . Boston : Focal Press.
Call Number: Art Ref. TR9.F6 1993

Abstract: This encyclopedia's short to moderately long articles cover biographical, historical, and a wealth of technical information. A useful timeline is found under the entry "Advances in Photographic Technology." Some illustrations are included. [Review, Oberlin Art Library Staff, BQP 6/27/02]

Turner, Jane 1956. 1996. The dictionary of art, 34 v. . New York : Grove's Dictionaries.
Call Number: Art Ref. N 31 .D5 1996
Web: Search OBIS for the title "dictionary of art online"

Abstract: A comprehensive art encyclopedia, this ambitious work covers all media, countries, and periods. The signed articles are written by authorities in each field and include bibliographies. The dictionary includes biographies of artists, patrons, collectors, dealers, theorists, critics, and scholars and claims to have more architects' biographies (3,700), "than any architectural reference work." Survey articles cover the cultures, civilizations, and countries of Africa, Ancient Egypt, Ancient Greece, the Ancient Near East, Ancient Rome, Central Asia and Mongolia, China, India, the Islamic world, Japan, Korea, Native North America, Pacific and Aboriginal Australia, Pre-Columbian Americas, and Southeast Asia. Articles on non-Western cultures cover the full range of art forms produced, from architecture to the fine and decorative arts.

"The architectural history of every nation and culture in the world is explored in up-to-date studies in both country and civilization articles." The urban culture and history of 1,350 cities worldwide is covered. Artistic styles, movements and theories are included, as are forms, themes, and subject matter.

Art materials, techniques, and conservation are also discussed. The dictionary claims to be "the largest single collection of images available in an art publication" and "the most comprehensive series of bibliographies in the art-historical world." Volume 33 includes appendices; the index, in volume 34, contains over a half a million entries. Note: The index does not follow standard alphabetical rules; please ask for help.[Review, Oberlin Art Library Staff, BQP 11/19/01; MJR 08/30/02]

Handbooks.

Baldwin, Gordon. 1991. Looking at photographs : a guide to technical terms, Malibu, Calif.: J. Paul Getty Museum in association with British Museum Press.
Call Number: Art Ref. TR9.B35 1991

Carr, Dawson W. (Dawson William). 1992. Looking at paintings : a guide to technical terms, Malibu, Calif. : J. Paul Getty Museum in association with British Museum Press.
Call Number: Art Ref. ND31.C37 1992

Edelstein, Debra, G. E. Kaltenbach, and Art Institute of Chicago. 1993. Pronunciation dictionary of artists' names, 3rd rev. ed. 1 v. (unpaged) . Boston : Little, Brown, and Co..
Call Number: Art Ref. N40.K3 1993

Abstract: Provides phonetic pronunciations of artists' names. Also noted is the artist's gender, primary artistic medium, nationality and birth and death date. Includes artists from Western Europe, North American, South American and Australia. A useful resource that can be used to advantage with McConkey's Klee as in Clay (Art Ref. NX 163.M3 1992). [Review, Oberlin Art Library Staff, BQP 11/19/01]

Mayer, Ralph 1895 and Steven Sheehan. 1991. The artist's handbook of materials and techniques, 5th ed., rev. and updated / by Steven Sheehan. xv, 761 p. . New York, N.Y., U.S.A. : Viking.
Call Number: Art Ref. ND 1500 .M3 1991

Contents include: Pigments -- Oil painting -- Acrylics -- Tempera painting -- Grounds for oil and tempera painting -- Watercolor and gouache -- Pastel -- Encaustic painting -- Mural painting -- Solvents and thinners -- Gums, casein, glues, waxes -- Chemistry -- Conservation of pictures

Abstract: A standard resource written for artists with complete and up-to-date descriptions of various painting materials and techniques. Noted for its clear and careful handling of important basic concepts such as pigment, solvents and thinners, oil painting, acrylics, etc. [Review, Oberlin Art Library Staff, BQP 8/23/01]

Museum Catalogs

Allen Memorial Art Museum, Jenny Squires Wilker. 1998. Masterworks for learning [electronic resource]: a college collection catalogue, Computer data and programs. Oberlin, OH : Oberlin College.
Call Number: Art Ref. Art CD-ROM N 650 .A65 1998
Web: Search OBIS for the title *masterworks online*

Abstract: This multi-media CD is divided into two main sections. The Museum introduces the Allen Memorial Art Museum, its history, and its educational goals. The Catalogue presents 171 illustrated scholarly entries on selected paintings, drawings, sculpture, prints, and decorative arts in the AMAM collection, in addition to brief label information on all works in the collection;The Allen Memorial Art Museum (AMAM) has produced four catalogs of its collections; the latest and most complete is the CD-ROM catalog, published in 1998. This is the first place to go for information about objects in the AMAM. Double click on thumbnails to display essays provenance, and bibliographies for illustrated works.
[Review, Oberlin College Art Library Staff, BQP 08/08/01]

Periodical Indexes

ARTbibliographies modern (Online), 1974-. Santa Barbara, Calif. : ABC-Clio.
Search OBIS for the title *artbibliographies modern online*

Abstract: Abstracts of journal articles, books, essays, exhibition catalogs, dissertations, and exhibition reviews. The scope of *ARTbibliographies Modern* extends from artists and movements beginning with Impressionism in the late 19th century, up to the most recent works and trends in the late 20th century. Photography is covered from its invention in 1839 to the present. A particular emphasis is placed upon adding new and lesser-known artists and on the coverage of foreign-language literature. Approximately 13,000 new entries are added each year. *Artbibliographies Modern* is one of the few sources that lists individual artists participating in group shows. [Review, Oberlin Art Library Staff, BQP 8/9/02]

Bibliography of the history of art (Online). Getty Information Institute, Institut de l'information scientifique et technique (France), and Research Libraries Group. 1973-. [Santa Monica, Calif. : Vandoeuvre-les-Nancy, France : J. Paul Getty Trust, ; Centre national de la recherche scientifique].
Call Number: Art Ref. N7510 .B52
Web: Search OBIS for the title *bibliography of the history of art online*

Abstract: *The Bibliography of the History of Art (BHA)* is the most current and thorough periodical index available for the history of European and American Art. *BHA* abstracts and indexes the literature of European (from the 4th century AD) and American art (from the colonial period). *BHA* also indexes art worldwide that reflects contact with the Western tradition. Media covered include the Fine Arts (painting, sculpture, prints, drawing, and architecture) the Decorative/Applied Arts (jewelry, furniture, ceramics, etc.) as well as popular and folk art as well as any object of interest to the art historian. Photography and all contemporary new media are included. *BHA* indexes books, periodical articles, dissertations, exhibition catalogs, art dealers catalogs, and conference proceedings. Over 4,000 periodicals are indexed in part or in full, representing a wide range of languages and cultures. [Review, Oberlin Art Library Staff, BQP 8/8/02]

Art Abstracts. H.W. Wilson Company 1984-. [S.l. : s.n..]
Web: Search OBIS for the title *art abstracts*

Abstract: The most widely used art index in the U.S., *Art Index* (a.k.a *Art Abstracts*) lists citations to articles in fine art journals by subject and author (of the article). All art periods and all media are covered. Abstracts are included for selected articles starting in the mid-1990's. Reproductions of art are indexed by artist and title of the piece. Exhibition catalogs and books are not included, although reviews of each are. Book reviews are included from the mid-1970's onward; the print predecessor of *Art Abstracts*, *Art Index* (Art Z 5937 .A78), has book reviews from 1929 onward. [Review, Oberlin Art Library Staff, BQP 8/9/02]

Reproductions

The 20th-Century art book, 512 p. . London : Phaidon Press.
Call Number: Art Ref. N6490 .T85 1996

Abstract: The 20th-Century Art Book is a unique dictionary that emphasizes images, rather than text. Each page is a full color reproduction of a work and a very brief entry on the artist. Only twentieth-century artists (primarily from the west) are included. Use this tool for a quick visual overview of the century or for an example of a specific artist's style. Also included is a very selective Directory of Museums and Galleries. For similar treatment of western art from other centuries, see *The Art Book* (Art Ref. N 40 .A775 1994). [Review, Oberlin Art Library Staff, BQP 10/14/02, MJR 5/22/02]

Base Joconde bienvenue [electronic resource], Electronic data. [France] : Ministre de la Culture et de la Communication.

Call Number: Art Ref. N6841 .B49 1999

Search OBIS for the title *base joconde*

Abstract: The database Joconde consists of more than 130,000 works, from the 7th century to the present, housed in more than 75 French museums, representing thousands of artists. Includes paintings, drawings, prints, sculptures, photographs and other art objects in French public collections. Information varies from record to record but often includes provenance, condition, and bibliographies. Works reproduced are in the public domain. Use Joconde to determine the location of works, the existence of works, search for objects by location and subject, or artist and subject.

[Review, Oberlin Art Library Staff, BQP 6/19/02]

Auer, Michele, Michel Auer, and Ides et calendes (Publishers). 1997. Photographers encyclopedia international from its beginnings to the present, Computer program and data. Neuchatel [Switzerland] : Ides et calendes.

Call Number: Art Ref. Art CD-ROM TR 139 .A943 1997

Abstract: An electronic encyclopedia containing biographies, exhibition lists, bibliographies and addresses of 3,135 photographers, less complete information for 3,000 others, plus a chronology of the history of photography, a lexicon of processes, and more than 5,900 images.

[Review, Oberlin Art Library Staff, MJR 3/02]

Calloway, Stephen and Elizabeth C Cromley. 1996. The Elements of style : a practical encyclopedia of interior architectural details, from 1485 to the present, Rev. ed. 568 p. . New York : Simon and Schuster.

Call Number: Art Ref. NA2850 .E44 1996

Abstract: This title brings together written and visual material often difficult to locate. Numerous color and black and white photographs, diagrams, and drawings complement the relatively short entries, which are arranged by broad subject areas, such as doors, walls, fireplaces, lighting, and woodwork. Entries are grouped under larger historical sections, beginning with "Tudor and Jacobean (1485-1625)" and ending with "Beyond Modern (1950-1990)." A glossary and "Directory of Suppliers," a bibliography, and an index complete the work.

[Review, Oberlin Art Library Staff, BQP 7/5/01]

Laing, Ellen Johnston. 1998. An index to reproductions of paintings by twentieth-century Chinese artists, Rev. ed. xxi, 530 p. . Michigan Monographs in Chinese Studies, v. 76. Ann Arbor : Center for Chinese Studies, University of Michigan.

Call Number: Art Ref. ND 1045 .L35 1998

Abstract: This index covers 3,500 "traditional style artists" (active from roughly 1912- 1980) and is divided into three categories: collaborative, institutional, and anonymous works. Titles and artists are listed in English with their corresponding Chinese characters. Citations to reproductions of their works and brief biographies are also included, in addition to a bibliography of indexed books and journals. Finally, the author has also provided a guide to alternate names. This revised edition corrects errors in and omissions from the 1984 edition.

[Review, Oberlin College Library Staff, BQP 6/4/02, MJR 2/20/02]

Matthews, Kevin. 1995. The great buildings collection [electronic resource] : an interactive library of architecture, Macintosh version. 1 CD-ROM . New York : Van Nostrand Reinhold.
Call Number: Art Ref. NA200 .M34 1995

Abstract: The Great Buildings Collection represents more than 750 important buildings from around the world and throughout human history. The CD-ROM includes photographic images, drawings, videos, textual commentary, and interactive three-dimensional models of the buildings represented.;Elevations, sections, and plans for many buildings are included. Images and drawings can be printed (NB: only thumbnails of drawings can be printed). A less complete version of The Great Buildings Collection is also available on the Internet (search OBIS for the title "great buildings collection"). [Review, Oberlin Art Library Staff, BQP 10/14/02]

OhioLINK Digital Media Center databases [electronic resource], Ohio Library and Information Network. 1999-.
Electronic data. [Columbus, Ohio] : OhioLINK.
Call Number: Art Ref. N4000 .O37 1999

Abstract: Provides access to images, sounds, video, numeric data, and other types of media information. Users are able to search by attributes such as date, title, or creator, and view both thumbnail and full images

Parry, Pamela Jeffcott. 1978. Contemporary art and artists: an index to reproductions, xlix, 327 p. . Westport, Conn. : Greenwood Press.
Call Number: Art Ref. N6490.P3234

Abstract: An index to reproductions of works of art created between 1940 and the mid-1970's.
[BQP 11/1/00, MJR 2/14/02]

_____. 1979. Photography index : a guide to reproductions, xviii, 372 p. . Westport, Conn. : Greenwood Press.
Call Number: Art Ref. TR199.P37

Abstract: Provides access to images in about 90 books which reproduce photographs made from 1820 to the 1970's. A chronological index of anonymous photographers complements the larger subject and title index and the largest index, photographers.
[Review, Oberlin Art Library Staff, BQP 6/28/01]

Watson-Jones, Virginia. 1986. Contemporary American women sculptors, x, 665 p. . Phoenix, AZ : Oryx Press.
Call Number: Art Ref. NB212.W37 1986

Abstract: Provides detailed information, including artists' statements and plates of work, for over 320 artists.
[Review, Oberlin Art Library Staff; BQP, MJR 10/10/02]

Call Number Equivalents for Browsing

Library of Congress Call Numbers

Dewey Call Numbers

N (Visual arts in general, not confined to one medium) Used when a book includes more than one medium (ex: the paintings and drawings of an artist)	700
NA (Architecture)	720
NB (Sculpture)	730
NC (Drawing, Illustration)	740
ND (Painting)	750
NE (Graphic Arts, Printmaking)	760
NK (Decorative Arts, Applied Art, Industrial Design)	745
NX (The Arts: Visual Arts in combination with other arts: literature, music, performing arts, etc.)	792

NB (Sculpture)

(730 = Dewey Decimal equivalent)

NB 69 - 169 Ancient.

NB 170 - 180 Medieval.

NB 185 - 198 Renaissance to 20th century.

NB 201 - 1114 Special countries and artists (same sequence as N 6501 - 7414).

The countries are arranged in this general sequence: United States, Canada, Central and South America, Great Britain, Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Belgium, Russia, Scandinavia, Spain, Portugal, countries of the Near East, Far East, Africa, Australia.

Each country has the following sub-arrangement: General histories; special periods (arranged chronologically); special regions, states, or provinces; special cities; individual artists arranged alphabetically.

NB 1208 - 1270 Sculpture in special materials (ex: NB 1230: bronze).

NB 1293 - 1895 Special forms of sculpture (relief sculpture, portraits, monuments).