

**ART SERIALS, PERIODICALS, INDEXES, ABSTRACTS, AND
RESEARCH-IN-PROGRESS**

Selected Reference Sources

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I. INTRODUCTION

Periodicals, journals, magazines, newspapers, and annual publications are all examples of **serials**. Serials are publications issued at intervals over a period of time in successive parts bearing numeric or chronological designations that are intended to be continued indefinitely. When they are issued frequently and more or less regularly, they are called **periodicals**, journals, or, more popularly, magazines. Most serials are shelved alphabetically by title. The current issues are shelved at the West end of the Art Library. After being bound, they are shelved in the Periodical Stacks (northeast part of the Art Library). Annuals and more irregular serials (e.g., Städel-Jahrbuch, Marsyas, Wallraf-Richartz-Jahrbuch, Papers of the British School at Rome, The Walpole Society, Dumbarton Oaks Papers, and annual reports of museums) are classified in either Dewey or LC and shelved among the books. If you are not sure where to look, search the title in OBIS and/or in the serials printouts located in the Indexes/Abstracts section of the Reference collection (near the Special Collections cabinets).

II. OBIS -- THE OBERLIN BIBLIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM

A major resource for any research conducted in the libraries is OBIS, the online catalog. "A Guide to OBIS", which describes how to search the system, is available at the Circulation counter. When searching OBIS by subject, consult the red volume set, Library of Congress Subject Headings, kept on the Reference table, to identify subject headings for your topic. For information on other ways to search by subject, see the "Basic Searching" and "Boolean Searching" sections in "A Guide to OBIS." Please feel free to request assistance from the Art Library's staff at any time.

The section devoted to "Serials" in "A Guide to OBIS" offers useful searching information. The Art Library's serials holdings can be accessed by using subject headings such as **ART PERIODICALS** or **ART -- BIBLIOGRAPHY -- PERIODICALS**. Other useful subject headings include **ART PERIODICALS -- INDEXES**; **ART -- BIBLIOGRAPHY -- INDEXES -- PERIODICALS**; and **ART -- BIBLIOGRAPHY -- ABSTRACTS -- PERIODICALS**. For more specific subject areas, use specific subheadings, such as: **ARCHAEOLOGY -- BIBLIOGRAPHY -- PERIODICALS**; **ARCHITECTURE -- PERIODICALS**; and **SCULPTURE -- PERIODICALS**.

III. INDEXES AND ABSTRACTS

As a relatively small number of art journals (e.g., Art Bulletin, Art Documentation, and Burlington Magazine) publish their own indexes, and none publish summaries (i.e., abstracts) of the items cited, it is essential that the broad range and rich variety of separate periodical indexes and abstracts be consulted for any specific research topic.

Periodical and serial indexes and abstracts are invaluable resources, identifying material both at Oberlin and at other colleges and universities, which can be requested via InterLibrary Loan (ILL). In fact, most of these sources cover more than just periodicals. They include items such as articles in festschriften (anthologies published to honor an individual); exhibition catalogues; conference and symposia reports; reviews of books and exhibitions; obituaries; articles in museum bulletins and annuals; monographs; catalogues raisonnés; Ph.D. dissertations; and occasionally M.A. theses.

An INDEX gives only bibliographic citations, while an ABSTRACT gives in addition a summary of the item. Although editorial guidelines differ, most of the major sources give the summary in English. Thus, for items in languages you do not read well or not at all, you can determine whether looking at the full article, the review, etc., is worthwhile.

Whatever the coverage of the particular source, the procedure for locating the citations is the same. All items--except reviews, obituaries, and the actual titles and authors of particular articles--located at Oberlin can be found in OBIS. When you determine that the Art, other branch library, or the Main library has the periodical title and issue(s) you need, you can go directly to the bound periodical stacks. If the volume is not on the shelf, ask at the Circulation desk to have it searched. Bound and current issues of Art Library journals do not normally circulate outside the library, but they may be charged out to carrels and to Reserve.

As there is always some time lag in the indexing process, it is unlikely that an article you locate in an index/abstract will be found in the current periodical area, but that is always a good place to look for recent articles. If relatively recent issues have been collected to be bound, we may be able to retrieve them for you before they are sent to the bindery. If not, we are able to have the volume(s) in question rush processed for you upon its return from the bindery.

A relatively large number of bound journals are in **storage**, due to the need for growth space in the bound periodicals shelving area. OBIS should indicate this with the "ASTOR" location code. **Items in storage can be readily retrieved**, usually within twenty-four to thirty-six hours. **To request storage titles, ask at the Circulation desk.**

All of the major indexing and abstracting sources in the Art Library are listed below. They are considered part of the Reference collection and the majority are shelved across from the Special Collections cases; exceptions are indicated.

Although most indexing and abstracting sources are arranged alphabetically by author, title, and subject, each has its own particular arrangement. Before beginning, it would be worthwhile to spend a little time reading the introduction or preface found at the beginning of either the first or the latest volume.

Indexing and abstracting publications are invaluable resources, but one should always remember that they have limitations: currency of coverage; geographic, historical, and format limitations; timeliness

and frequency of publication; sources and titles indexed/abstracted; and ease of use. And, despite the essential research value of these sources, **remember that no matter how useful the bibliographic entry or abstract may seem, a citation is no substitute for the full article, review, etc.**

AREF Art Index. New York: H. W. Wilson. 1929 (vol. 1)-Oct. 1992
Z (vol. 40). For enhanced coverage of 1984 onwards, see CD-ROM
5937 version in section IV.
.A78

Published quarterly, with annual cumulation, Art Index covers some 235 serials, about 75% of which are in English. The most widely used art index in the U.S., it indexes all forms and periods of art. Exhibition catalogues and books are covered only if they are reviewed in serials. Lists reproductions of artists' works under the artist. Includes obituaries.

AREF ARTbibliographies Modern (ABM). Santa Barbara: American
Z Bibliographical Center--Clio Press. 1969 (vol. 1)-1993
5935 (v. 24, no. 2). For enhanced coverage of 1984 onwards,
.L64 see CD-ROM version in section IV.

Semi-annual publication providing abstracts or brief annotations for references from about 330 serials, 63% of which are in English. Some inevitable overlap with Art Index, but each covers a significant number of unique titles. Also, ABM covers festschriften, dissertations, etc. Covers nearly 400 museums and galleries in Europe and N. America; each issue reports around 400 exhibition catalogues. Abstracts the current literature of Modern art, Photography, and Design. In 1989, subject coverage was changed to 1900 onwards, except for photography. Also in 1989, architecture was dropped. Artists and material of importance to the present century are also covered, but this loosely defined editorial policy can lead to unsatisfactory research strategies. ABM has a separate author index. Coverage of contemporary art is particularly good.

AREF Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals. 2nd ed. Boston:
Z G. K. Hall, 1973-1993. 15 vols. + supplements. For
5945 enhanced coverage of 1977 onwards, see CD-ROM version in
.C653 section IV.
1973

Begun in 1934, the Avery is one of the best architectural libraries in the world. Its periodical index is superb, covering a wide and rich variety of subjects and publications.

AREF Z 5937 .B53 BHA: Bibliography of the History of Art/Bibliographie d'Histoire de l'Art. Williamstown: Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute. 1991 (vol. 1, number 1)-.

This quarterly, with annual cumulation, is the merger of RILA and Répertoire d'Art et d'Archéologie (see below). The indexes and subheadings are printed in both English and French; the abstracts are in the language of the person who wrote the entry. About 4,000 serials are covered. Excluded is coverage for prehistoric, ancient, African, Oceanic, ancient and native American, and East Asian art. BHA is one of the best resources for scholarly research. For an in-depth consideration of BHA, see Jeffrey Weidman, "The BHA: A Review Article," Art Librarie Journal, volume 16, number 4, 1991, pp. 20-30 (AREF Z 593 .B53 review and bound periodical stacks).

AREF (Green) GN 700 .I552 Fasti Archaeologici: Annual Bulletin of Classical Archaeology. Firenze: Sansoni. 1946-1947 (vol. 1-2)-.

Shelved before the Open Reserve area, the Fasti is a multi-lingual abstracting service, which covers Prehistoric Greece--Christianity and Late Antiquity. An invaluable resource, but limited by the slowness of its publication. The Fasti can be supplemented by the Archäologische Bibliographie (1932-1978 in Dewey: 913.38Ar221J; 1981- in AREF Z 5132 .A67), which is an annual classified bibliography of books and periodical articles on all aspects of classical archaeology. It is also particularly useful for providing title equivalents of commonly used journal title abbreviations.

AREF (Green) Z 5937 .F74 1983 The Frick Art Reference Library Original Index to Periodicals. Boston: G. K. Hall, 1983. 12 volumes.

Compiled between 1923 and 1969, the Frick provides author and subject coverage for 27 serials, mostly from the first issue onwards. Emphasis is on Western European and American painting, drawing, and sculpture and some decorative arts from the 11th century to 1860.

AREF Index to Art Periodicals Compiled in Ryerson Library. The

Z Art Institute of Chicago. Boston: G. K. Hall, 1962.
5937 11 volumes. First Supplement, 1975. 1 volume.
.C55

The Ryerson is a subject index, begun in 1907. Combined with Art Index, RILA/BHA, and ABM, English language access to literature in the visual arts is covered for most of the 20th century. The Ryerson emphasizes 19th and 20th century painting, decorative arts, Oriental art, and Chicago architecture. Indexes about 350 serials.

AREF Répertoire d'Art et d'Archéologie. Paris: Centre de
Z Documentation Sciences Humaines. 1910 (vol. 1)-1963
5937 (Vol. 67); 1965 (vol.1, new series)-1989 (vol. 25, number
.R4 4, new series).

Quarterly, with an annual cumulated index to serials, artists, subjects, and authors. Covers about 420 serials in each issue. Includes exhibition catalogues and festschriften. The Répertoire covers a period from about 200 A.D. to the present, excluding Islamic, Far Eastern, primitive art, and post-1940 works of art and artists born after 1920. Includes brief abstracts. There is a high percentage of Western and Eastern European art serials. About 21% of the serials covered are published in English, 22% in French, and 26% in German. After 1989, coverage is handled by BHA (above). The Répertoire is a superb resource for scholarly research.

AREF RILA: International Repertory of the Literature of Art, A
Z Bibliographic Service of the J. Paul Getty Trust.
5937 Williamstown: Sterling and Francine Clark Institute.
.R453 1975 (vol. 1)-1989 (vol. 15).

Semi-annual publication abstracting articles from about 400 journals. Coverage also includes books, museum and exhibition catalogues, festschriften, congress and symposia reports, and dissertations. Covers art from Late Antiquity of the 4th century to the present. About 48% of the serials are in English. Offers a rich assortment of access points. Provides cumulative subject indexes for 1975-1979, 1980-1984, and for 1985-1989. After 1989, coverage is handled by BHA (see above). RILA is a superb resource for scholarly research.

As indicated above, festschriften, which are excellent resources for scholarly articles, are indexed/abstracted in sources such as ABM and RILA/ BHA. As these sources only began indexing in the early 1970s, other sources are needed to unlock the riches of these resources from the previous 75+ years. For a discussion of festschriften as a scholarly publication type, see the essay at the back of Dorothy Rounds, Articles on Antiquity in Festschriften: an Index (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1962). AREF and MREF Z6202.R6.

AREF Lincoln, Betty Woelk. Festschriften in Art History, 1960-1975:
Z Bibliography and Index. New York: Garland Publishing, 1988.
5931
.L52 Indexes 4,676 essays in 344 festschriften. Has listings of
1988 honorees and provides table of contents with authors and essay
titles. Includes indexes of subjects, authors, and honorees.

AREF Rave, Paul Ortwin. Kunstgeschichte in Festschriften: Allgemeine
Z Bibliographie Kunstwissenschaftlicher Abhandlungen in den bis
5931 1960 Erschienenen Festschriften. Berlin: Verlag Gebr. Mann,
.R35 1962.

Includes main entries under honoree. Lists articles by subject,
subdivided by countries and authors of essays.

Rave, Lincoln, RILA/BHA, and ARTbibliographies Modern are particularly useful when you have incomplete information for a reference to an essay/article. Knowing only the subject and, perhaps, a partial title and a guess at the author, you can use these sources as the Ariadne's thread through this valuable area of festschriften research.

More specialized indexes and bibliographies can be found in the NX and Z classification areas of AREF.

In addition to the indexes/abstracts listed above, there are also many useful indexes/abstracts germane to the study of the visual arts that are located in the Main Library's Reference collection (MREF). Several of these include Poole's Index to Periodical Literature, which is a subject index to nineteenth-century periodicals (1802-1906); Humanities Index (1974-), which is useful for coverage of art topics in non-art periodicals; Wellesley Index to Victorian Periodicals 1824-1900, which provides more systematic and scholarly indexing than Poole's to a select group of nineteenth-century periodicals; as well as America: History and Life; Arts and Humanities Citation Index; Historical Abstracts; Philosopher's Index; and Religion Index One: Periodicals.

IV. CD-ROMS, FIRSTSEARCH, AND OTHER ONLINE DATABASES

The area of electronic reference sources and services is rapidly changing and expanding. New resources in the Oberlin College libraries include CD-ROM and FirstSearch products and services accessible from the Main and branch libraries. Covering information in a wide and rich variety of subject areas, these electronic sources provide powerful and expansive access to an ever-increasing range of material.

A. CD-ROMS. Reference Area.

Art Index and ARTBibliographies Modern are available on CD-ROM from 1984 to the present; the Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals is on CD-ROM from 1977 to the present. The CD-ROM versions offer increased searching flexibility and power. The systems are user-friendly, but should you require assistance, please do not hesitate to ask the Art Library staff.

In the not-to-distant future, we expect to be able to provide CD-ROM versions of BHA, the Répertoire, and RILA. The future should also bring text and image CD-ROM access to the Allen Memorial Art Museum's collection.

B. FIRSTSEARCH. At Reference Table.

FirstSearch is an online service providing access to over 30 different databases that cover publications in all subject areas. FirstSearch is also available at designated terminals in the Main and all branch libraries. Of particular interest to the visual arts are the following databases:

WorldCat	Books and other materials in libraries worldwide.
HumanitiesIn	An index of articles in the humanities.
A&H Search	Arts & Humanities Search. A citation index.

C. OTHER ONLINE DATABASES. Make appointment with the Art Librarian.

Librarian-assisted searching in online databases can complement the unassisted searching available from CD-ROM products and from FirstSearch. Also, mediated searching in online databases often provides access to material otherwise unavailable.

V. RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

In an actual, if not always practical, sense, the entire Art Library's collection can be considered as "Research in Progress," assuming that no publication, no matter how comprehensively or definitively intended or realized, is ever the final statement on any conceivable subject.

In a more relative sense, **the published results of research-in-progress are more likely to appear in the periodical/serial literature than in any other type of publication.** This is generally the case with articles in periodicals, in museum bulletins and annuals, and in other serials. A sterling example includes the "State of Research" articles in The Art Bulletin, listed in the title "Art Research Methodology, Bibliography, and Historiography."

Other avenues of access to such in-progress work include **articles in anthologies and in festschriften, Ph.D. dissertations, M.A. theses, and many small and medium size exhibition catalogues.** Because of the nature of organizing and realizing such exhibitions, these catalogues are often published in a more timely fashion than, for example, monographs, catalogues raisonnés, either on individual artists or on collections, or the larger and often more substantial exhibition catalogues, some of which may be associated with "blockbuster" exhibitions.

As many of the above kinds of publications are indexed and/or abstracted in ABM, BHA, and the Fasti, for example, **periodical/serial indexes and abstracts are a particularly rich resource for**

identifying research-in-progress. A related resource is Art and Archaeology Technical Abstracts, shelved in current and periodicals.

Book and Exhibition Reviews/Review Essays are particularly good resources for research-in-progress, especially if they are the kind of substantial scholarly reviews that appear in periodicals such as American Journal of Archaeology, The Art Bulletin, Art Documentation, Art History, Art Libraries Journal, The Burlington Magazine, Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians, Kunst Chronik, Woman's Art Journal, Winterthur Portfolio, and Zeitschrift für Kunstgeschichte, to name just a very few. Several other particularly good resources, both of which are at the Main Library, are The Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism and The New York Review of Books. Reviewers in these, and other comparable periodicals, frequently expand substantially on the title under review to create mini "states of research" essays. Their texts, including the footnotes, are a fecund resource.

A number of periodicals also publish annual lists of Ph.D. dissertations and M.A. theses in progress as well as completed. For example, in its June issue, The Art Bulletin provides such detailed information for American and Canadian dissertations in both categories, arranged chronologically and by broad subjects and then alphabetically by the author's last name: "Egyptian, Ancient Near Eastern, and Classical Art"; "Early Christian, Byzantine, and Medieval Art"; "The Renaissance"; "Baroque and 18th-Century Europe"; "19th- and 20th-Century Europe"; "Art of the United States and Canada (except Photography and Film)"; "Native American, Pre-Columbian, and Latin American Art"; "Asian Art"; "Islamic Art"; "African Art"; "Photography and Film"; "Art Criticism and Theory." The Archives of American Art Journal, recently in the first number of a volume, has a section devoted to "Graduate Research Projects in American Art," which is divided into Masters Theses and Doctoral Dissertations. Each division is arranged alphabetically by institution, and then alphabetically by author's last name.

Abstracts of Conference Papers, such as those published for the annual conferences of the College Art Association (CAA) and for the Art Libraries Society of North America (ARLIS/NA), **document research often in its very early stages**. These abstracts are usually written by the author herself/himself and may represent the only written documentation of pre-publication research in progress for several or more years. The abstracts may also be the only published documentation of research that was never or will never be published. To find these, do an OBIS author search (e.g., College Art Association).

A number of periodicals, such as Antiques, have a section devoted to **Queries**, where individuals' research-in-progress and often requests for information are published. Related to this are the sections in various periodicals devoted to "Current and Coming" events, such as exhibitions.

A particularly useful **research-in-progress monographic series**, related to the titles discussed in "Art Works' Documentation," is the National Gallery in Washington's Studies in the History of Art (ART N386.U5S78). The individual volumes consist of symposia papers and other essays concentrated on a particular theme or topic, several examples being The Pastoral Landscape (number 36) and The Artist's Workshop (number 38).

Other publications of the National Gallery of Art that are especially useful for research in progress are those of its Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts, including Sponsored Research in the History of Art (Art Z5931.S78) and the Record of Activities and Research Reports (Art N330.W3C457a).

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