**INTRODUCTION TO ART HISTORICAL RESEARCH**

**“THE BIBLIOGRAPHY PROJECT”**

**STAGE TWO**

**INTRODUCTION AND HELPFUL HINTS**: This project will introduce you to library services and help you develop an effective plan for conducting research in your art history courses, but the basic ideas will be useful in other classes as well. This assignment requires meticulous attention to detail. It is not that difficult, but it requires multiple steps. It is essential that you listen carefully and keep up with the class. As you begin this project, keep in mind the following:

 • The historian is a detective searching for the buried clues of the past. The search is part of the fun as well as the challenge. In any art history class, the quality of your research—that search for clues—will count for about 1/3 of your paper’s grade. Therefore, it is essential that you learn to do research effectively and thoroughly.

 • Your search must have breadth and context as well as depth and specifics. One book (or even 2 or 3) is not sufficient for writing a research paper.

 • Your search must have quality. What types of books cannot be used?

 Juvenile books

 Coffee-table or picture books

 Books aimed at the general public

• What are you looking for? You need to use specialized books, called scholarly monographs, for your research. Here are some characteristics of the scholarly monograph:

 --It’s written by a specialist in the field with an advanced degree, usually a Ph.D.

 --The author wrote the book based on original research in libraries, archives, museums, an examination of the actual work, the artist’s private papers, etc. Therefore, it relies heavily on primary sources and provides scholarly interpretation.

 --It has extensive documentation, including footnotes, bibliographies (often comprehensive), archival material, entries on individual works.

 --Typically, it is published by a university press, a museum, or a specialty art publishing house (for example, Rizzoli or Thames & Hudson).

 --Its purpose is to share new research and ideas with fellow scholars. It is not aimed at the general public, but in the art field there is a large educated audience for such books.

 • The public library is not going to have many scholarly monographs. You need to learn to use Crumb Library. You also have borrowing privileges at Saint Lawrence and Clarkson as well as all SUNY libraries. We have a very efficient interlibrary loan system that you need to learn to use.

**STAGE TWO ASSIGNMENT:**

For stage two, your assignment is to write a bibliography on your chosen topic as if you were going to do a research paper on that topic.

Locate resources by researching keywords and subject headings. The information that you filled into the “blank boxes” will be useful here. Search **BEARCAT** to find books in Potsdam’s library and **WorldCat** to find books available through interlibrary loan. When you are using these scholarly databases, the type of keyword searching that you use on Google will not be sufficient. You will need to learn how to search with subject headings. One helpful trick is to search a citation you know you will use and click on one or more of the Subject links for that entry; this will quickly locate many resources on similar topics. These databases are also much larger, so you’ll need to execute more precise searches, especially on the colossal WorldCat.

1.Find an entry for your artist in a scholarly reference source. The two main ones for art history are:

 --*Encyclopedia of World Art*. 17 volumes. Ref. N31 .E533

 --*The Dictionary of Art*. 34 volumes. Ref. N31 .D5 1996

 You must use the books in the Reference section of the library. Do not use an online source.

2. Locate scholarship on your artist. You should include 3 books. These books may not be biographies that discuss only the artist’s life. They must be scholarly monographs that discuss the artist’s work.

Fried, Michael. *Manet’s Modernism: or, The Face of Painting in the 1860s*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1998.

3. Find art historical texts on the art style, art movement, or time period associated with your work. Examples would be Impressionism, the Renaissance, Futurism, or the seventeenth century. You should have 2 books.

Nees, Lawrence. *Early Medieval Art*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002.

4. Find 2 books on the art of the country from which your artist came or the country in which he worked.

Brown, Jonathan. *Painting in Spain: 1500—1700*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1998.

5. Find an exhibition catalog pertaining to your artist. The field of art history does not have as many scholarly journals as other disciplines. More than half of scholarly research in modern art is published in exhibition catalogs, which function as books. You need at least one catalog.

Dickerman, Leah. *Dada*. Washington, D.C.: National Gallery of Art in Association with DAP, 2005.

**\*\***For each citation, document which resource you used (this will also be necessary if you request these materials through ILL), and include the Library of Congress catalog number below the citation.

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