PHOTO 115 Photographic Principles Research Guide

PHOTO115: Combines theoretical analysis and practical application of photography. Through a series of assignments, non-photography majors explore the aesthetic, cultural, and communicative aspects of the photographic medium.

Introduction to research guide: This research guide is a collection of resources useful for non-photography majors who are studying the medium of photography from a theoretical standpoint and not for practice of the actual art form. The following resources will help students complete research for a research paper, and they will also be useful for various assignments. The sources for locating images all focus on a variety of ways that photography can be used to exhibit culture, be a communicative medium, and they can be studied for their aesthetic value. Sources to complement these photographs include places to look for background information and history, as well as places to look for books and articles that offer more in depth perspectives on the medium itself. Additionally, there are sources to reference for definitions of unfamiliar terminology and concepts, as well as resources that can be used to learn more about an individual photographer and their life or aesthetic. Lastly, there are also two particular local locations that exhibit photography that are particularly relevant to the study of photography for the aesthetic, cultural, and communicative value. I hope this is helpful, and will be a great starting point as you explore more about the world of photography.

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Finding Books:

Searching the catalog for books on photography:

**Try a keyword search:**

Ex. “Ansel Adams”
Ex. “Fashion photography”

**Try a subject search:**

*General*: Photography and art
Photography—Early works to 1850
Photography—History
Photographers—Biography

*Communication*: Photography Advertising
Photography, Fashion
Photography for the press
Photography—Business methods

*Culture*: Photography, Fashion
Photography—Films
Photography—Archive applications
Photography, Artistic—History

*Aesthetics*: Photography Aesthetics
Photography—Appreciation
Photographers

**Browse books:**

TR1-1050 Photography
   TR624-835 Applied photography
      Including artistic, commercial, medical photography, photocopying processes
ARTBibliographies Modern *(electronic source)*

ARTBibliographies Modern is a database on contemporary art that contains over 443,363 entries consisting of journal articles, essays, PhD dissertations, and exhibition catalogs or reviews on all forms of modern and contemporary art dating back to 1974 for full coverage. Additionally, 13,000 new entries are being added each year. Some journals specifically cover topics such as art theory and society and art. Some relevant titles include *Photography Quarterly* and *Afterimage*. One of the easiest ways to search the tool is using Boolean phrases and truncation; however, there is also a built-in thesaurus for subject searching. There is a “help” function available for questions.

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Art Full Text *(electronic source)*

Art Full Text is an art research database that contains over 300 full-text journals dating back to 1995 on art and art-related subjects. It also includes indexing and abstracts for journals dating back to 1985, art dissertations, and art reproductions. Some journals specifically cover topics in photography such as the photographic industry, the history of photography, as well as types of photography including photojournalism or fashion photography. Some relevant titles include the *Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism* and *Photography and Culture*. The easiest ways to search this tool is using Boolean phrases and truncation; however, there is also a built-in thesaurus for subject searching. In order to search for an art reproduction for providing examples of different styles, use the advanced search feature to narrow results by “art reproduction.” There is a “help” function available for questions.

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Art Index Retrospective *(electronic source)*

Art Index Retrospective is an art research database containing the back files of Art Full Text. It covers almost 600 publications ranging from 1929-1989. Entries include many topics on photography; however, because of the range of coverage, the primary benefit of this database for photography, a relatively new art form, is that there are many primary materials available. Some relevant titles include the *Photographic Journal* and *History of Photography*. One of the easiest ways to search the tool is using Boolean phrases and truncation; however, there is also a built-in thesaurus for subject searching. There is a “help” function available for questions.

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Design and Applied Arts Index (DAAI) *(electronic source)*

DAAI is a database of abstracts and bibliographic records for articles, news items, and reviews published in design and applied arts periodicals from 1973 onwards. Entries include many subjects related to photography and its practical application, such as photography and advertising and photography and fashion. Some relevant titles include *Visual Resources* and *Visual Communication*, both of which address topics related to photography. The easiest ways to search the tool is using Boolean phrases and truncation; however, there is also a built-in thesaurus for subject searching. There is a “help” function available for questions.

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Available through library databases
JSTOR (electronic source)

JSTOR is an interdisciplinary database that contains over 300 journals in its art and art history collection. Many of the art journals have coverage of topics on photography such as photographic history, photographic education, and photography and politics to name a few. Some relevant titles include *The Art Bulletin* and *Art Journal*. The easiest way to search this database is with its new “beta search” feature. The typical browsing options and advanced search options offer limited ways to refine a search. In the “beta search” option use Boolean phrases and truncation in the search line, and then refine the search with the limiters along the side bar. This search line also prompts recommended terminology to search with, which is helpful. There is a “help” function available for questions.

---available through library databases

**Basic Terminology:**


The *Dictionary of Photography of Digital Imaging* defines 2100 photographic terms. This is a great quick reference tool for students new to the study of photography that need to define a term they come across in their research. The website idigitalphoto.com now offers an online version of the *Dictionary of Photography and Digital Imaging* thanks to collaboration with the original author. Additionally, the website provides more up to date terminology than the original print source, and it has a basic search feature to look up terms.


The *Thames & Hudson Dictionary of Art Terms* includes definition of over 2000 art terms from all mediums including photography. This latest edition also includes entries that focus on technology, which is becoming very important within the photographic medium. This is a great resource for student who are new to photography and will need to find comprehensive and correct definitions of terms and concepts that they come across in their research.

---available through library reference
Background Information:


The Encyclopedia of Aesthetics includes over 600 articles by art historians, philosophers, and theorists. Topics include major aesthetic concepts, philosophers, and debates about art aesthetics. The study of aesthetics is integral to the study of photography, and this encyclopedia is useful to investigate or reference terms or trends on the topics of aesthetics that may be unfamiliar to non-photography or non-art majors. The encyclopedia is available online and is very easy to search by entry.

--available through library databases


The Encyclopedia of Twentieth-Century Photography covers subjects such as developments, movement, photographers, and theories in the photographic medium. It demonstrates the evolution of aesthetics, photography in regards to technology and culture, the evolution of the art form, and practical applications of photography. This source is appropriate for reference for non-photography majors exploring the evolution of the medium and photography as a communicative tool. It is easy to search by entry or thematically, and it also contains a glossary of terms.

--available library reference


The Encyclopedia of Nineteenth-Century Photography’s over 1200 essays cover subjects such as artists, processes, movements, and styles that demonstrate the development of the photographic medium into a prominent artistic and communicative tool in the 20th century. This source is appropriate for non-photography majors exploring photography as a communication tool and creative medium. The tool is very easy to search by entry or thematically.

--available in library reference


The Oxford Companion to the Photograph consists of 1600 entries that cover social and artistic aspects of photography, biographical entries on specific photographers, photographic terms, technology, photographic genres, and themes in photography. Coverage is more theoretical than practical which is appropriate for the content of this specific course. Additionally, because this resource covers specific genres and themes in photography, it is an appropriate reference tool to use to find information on the theoretical analysis of photography. Additionally, the bibliography is useful to incite additional research on various topics. The companion is available electronically, and it is also easy to search alphabetically.

--available through library databases

*PhotoSpeak* is a guide that explains photographic techniques, international photographic movements, and aesthetic concepts. It also contains an illustrated time line and a chart of various photographic artistic movements which is especially helpful. The photographic movements are broken down into a “who-when-where-what” format so that they are easy to understand. This is appropriate for this course because it covers relevant topics from the beginning of the photographic medium to today. It can be searched alphabetically by entry.

--available in library reference

**Finding Images:**

**AP Images.** The Associated Press. Web. 10 March 2013. *(www)*

*AP Images* is the photo depository for the Associated Press. It has over 15 million photos dating back to the 19th Century. This site is especially useful for this class because of the cultural and communicative aspect of the photojournalistic and editorial images available. Types of images include politics, sports, fashion, culture, and public art. There is an advanced search feature and photographs can be searched by people, event, place, source, photographer, date, type of news, sports, and entertainment. To access the advanced search, click on the search button in the basic search feature on the home page, and the next page offers an advanced search option.

--http://www.apimages.com

**ARTStor (electronic source)**

ARTStor is a database of over 1.5 million images from multiple cultures and time periods, and includes works by many notable photographers such as Ansel Adams and Annie Liebovitz. This database is useful for finding images to be studied by photographers of interest or a specific geographic region of interest. The database can be searched by collection, classification, or geography, and there is a basic and advanced search feature. This database is also especially helpful because images can be saved and sorted into folders for later use. Additionally, each image has information on the title, date, measurements, medium, description, location, etc. It does require the creation of a username and password to access certain features, but they are outside of the scope of this class.

--available through the library databases

**National Geographic: Photography.** National Geographic Society. Web. 9 March 2013. *(www)*

The National Geographic Society is a nonprofit organization known for its interest in getting people to care about the planet. It is also known for its popular photographs. The National Geographic website includes its photographic section, which features various photographs and galleries. This website is especially useful for the study of the communicative and cultural aspects of photography and their practical applications. Unfortunately there is no advanced search feature, and in the basic search one cannot specify photographs only. The easiest way to find images is by browsing collections.

--http://photography.nationalgeographic.com/photography/
Photography Collections Online. George Eastman House Museum of Photography and Film. Web. 10 March 2013. (www)

Photography Collections Online is a searchable database of over 400,000 photographic images from the George Eastman House Museum of Photography and Film. This database is useful for finding photographs on a specific artist or subject of interest to be studied. Photographs range from the beginning of photography to the present day. There are actually two websites to visit. The first is http://geh.org, which was the original website up until 2006, but it can still be used and accessed. The second website is http://licensing.eastmanhouse.org. For the purposes of this class the first website is the most useful because there are more search features, as well as collections of photographic objects and tools that provide a historical perspective. The most relevant searches can be done by searching the section headings by photographer, subject, or the technology collection.

--http://geh.org


The PPOC is the online photography collection of the Library of Congress, which contains 1.2 million images ranging from the beginning of the photographic medium to present day. Although the collection includes images from multiple geographic locations, the majority of images are documenting the history of the U.S. Therefore, many of the images are demonstrative of the cultural and communicative aspects of photography as well as trends in aesthetics. The repository can be browsed by creator, subject, or format. There is also an advanced search feature. The only idiosyncrasy is that because it is part of the Library of Congress, the collection includes images of artifacts as well as artistic images, and there is no function to separate these in the search results.

---http://www.loc.gov/pictures/

Swift, Danielle F., Hulin, Rachel and Kate Steciw, eds. The Photography Post. Web. 9 March 2013. (www)

The Photography Post is a website that provides updated feeds of interviews, columns, and photographs on subjects such as fashion, editorials, commercial, reportage, business, and technology. The website also includes a Museum of Online Photography Collection which includes a listing of online photography collections that directly link to the websites. This website can be a bit difficult to search because it has only a basic search feature; however, it is useful for this class because the site as a whole explores the communicative and cultural aspects of photography today.

--http://thephotographypost.com/about
Finding Photographers:


*The Benezit Dictionary of Artists* is a database includes over 170,000 entries of artists from all mediums and all eras including many photographers both prominent and lesser known. This resource is useful to not only find information about artists, but also incite further study about a particular artists, a particular aesthetic, or historical context. Each entry includes exhibition information, auction holdings, and a bibliography. This source is also updated regularly, so it is the most up to date. This resource is now available electronically through Oxford Art Online. One can browse by all content, biographies, subject entries, or images, which are listed alphabetically; and an advanced search feature is available to search by main search, image search, biography search, or bibliography search. In order to browse multiple artists that work only in the photographic medium, unfortunately the only way to limit the search is by doing an advanced search and not by browsing.

--available through the library databases

**Biography Reference Bank** *(electronic source)*

Biography Reference Bank is a multidisciplinary biographical source that includes biographies of over 600,000 individuals including those who work in the photographic medium. The entries also provide links to full-text articles or abstracts from periodicals. This database is particularly useful because it provides current coverage of individuals. Additionally, because it covers multiple types of periodicals, artists’ lives can also be viewed in a current cultural context. It is powered through EBSCOhost, so one is able to browse by subject using the built in thesaurus. One of the easiest ways to search is a basic search by the individual’s name. Results are organized by “All” “Bios/Obit,” and “Images.” There is also an advanced search feature to search by gender, ethnicity, date of birth, etc. Results can be saved to a folder or exported for later use.

--available through the library databases


The 3rd edition of *Contemporary Photographers* includes biographical entries of 850 prominent photographers from around the world who influenced the medium of photography including Henri Cartier-Bresson and Dorothea Lange. This is an excellent source to locate a photographer of interest to study them or their work. It is also useful to find additional non biographical resources on a specific photographer outside of this resource. This source can be search alphabetically by photographer, and the entries include biographies, listing of works by and about the photographs, critical writings, exhibitions of their work, and a sample photo of their work.

--available in library reference
Local Museums and Galleries:

**The Philadelphia Museum of Art**

The Philadelphia Museum of Art is one of the largest museums in the United States and is home to countless works of art and artifacts including those in the photographic medium. They house works by prominent photographers as well as local Philadelphia photographers. Thanks to a newer feature called Art 24/7, all of the works can be viewed online at the website. All works can be searched by keyword, artist, country, classification, or curatorial department.

--http://www.philamuseum.org/collections/search.html

**The Philadelphia Photo Arts Center (PPAC)**

The Philadelphia Photo Arts Center (PPAC) is a nonprofit organization that is committed to presenting contemporary photography in a series of exhibitions, lectures, classes, and equipment. Some of the themes of the exhibitions include topics such as commercial culture during the election, documentation of refugee journeys, and conflict in foreign countries to name a few themes. Exhibitions such as this are relevant to the class for both their ability to reflect the communicative and cultural aspect of the photographic medium, as well as appreciation of their aesthetic value.

--http://www.philaphotoarts.org/