

# Research in Ancient Near East & Egyptian Art

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## FINDING ARTICLES USING INDEXES/DATABASES

For background, to get ideas about topic selection, to see a variety of images, and to find out the most important books and articles in a broad area of ancient art, you might want to do a little in exploring in the massive online art encyclopedia:

### **Grove Art Online**

You can look up any topic, or proper names of cities, monuments, rulers, etc.—but try using the new “Explore” feature to find out what articles are available under “Time Period” or “Styles and Cultures.” When you get down to a specific subcategory, links to articles will appear in the “Results” column on the right. Some articles are few paragraphs; others are long and appear in multiple parts. Most have a bibliography of significant published sources and the end, and “Image Links” to web sites (mostly well-known museums).

Unlike more contemporary art, there is only one art **index** (in two parts) that covers art of this period. Much of what is published is categorized as archaeology, rather than art, requiring you to look in different places. Background in ancient religion/mythology is important, and many sources on art symbolism focus primarily on Christian and/or classical symbolism. Take a minute to check any available information about the source you plan to use and make sure its “scope”—both chronological and geographical—includes the places and periods you’re studying.

### **Art Full Text**

- **Description:** It indexes approximately 480 titles—primarily English-language **periodicals, yearbooks, and museum bulletins**; and some periodicals published in French, Italian, German, Japanese, Spanish, Dutch, and Swedish. In addition to articles, *Art Full Text* indexes reproductions of works of art that appear in indexed periodicals. About one-third of the journals have articles in full-text, others are available through GetText.
- **Period covered: All periods of art from prehistory to present.**
- **Dates of publications:** This began as an online version of *Art Index* (see II. “Print Indexes” below) in late 1984. It began adding abstracts in 1994, full-text articles in 1997 and images even more recently. Updated daily. (For online indexing of older articles see *Art Index Retrospective* below).

### **Art Index Retrospective**

- **Description:** Online version of *Art Index*, the predecessor to *Art Full Text*; indexing articles in older art magazines and journals. ***It’s the only specialized index for art magazines that covers articles published before about 1970.*** *Art Index Retrospective* has citations only—no abstracts, no full text or images.
- **Period covered: All periods of art from prehistory to present.**
- **Dates of publications:** 1929 to 1984.
- **Tips:** You can search both *Art Index Retrospective* and *Art Full Text* at once—click “Open Database Selection Area” and click both titles.

**For topics related to mythology and ancient religions:**

### **ATLA Religion Database with ATLASerials**

Combines the premier index to journal articles, book reviews, and collections of essays in all fields of **religion** with the American Theological Library Association (ATLA)'s online collection of major religion and theology journals. Links are provided to many full-text articles and book reviews, from more than seventy journals selected by leading religion scholars in the United

States. This database begins in 1949 although indexing for some journal titles extends back into the nineteenth century.

***The following databases include ancient history, archaeology, mythology, and some art.***

### **JSTOR**

Electronic archive of older (at least 2-5 years) issues of core scholarly journals; good source for art, archaeology and ancient history. You can't search by subject, which can make it problematic unless you have fairly specific and uncommon keywords (e.g. Manishtushu). You can also use it to search specific journal titles and issues if you have a citation from someplace else.

### **Humanities Full Text**

Indexes periodicals published 1984-present and gives some full text; covers **archaeology**, classical studies, **art**, photography, folklore, **history**, journalism and communications, language and literature, literary and political criticism, music and performing arts, philosophy, and **religion** and theology. Full-text periodical articles began appearing in 1995. Images may show up in PDF articles.

### **Social Sciences Full Text**

Indexes and abstracts a broad array of basic social sciences journals published 1983-present, including **history**, **anthropology** and interdisciplinary fields. In 1983 it went online as *Humanities Full Text*. Full-text periodical articles began appearing in 1995. Images may show up in PDF articles.

**Citations to older articles** from the latter two indexes above can be found using these print sources, all in the indexes section of King Library, Reference 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor. Dates refer to when the articles indexed were published.

- *Humanities Index* (1975-1984)
- *Social Sciences Index* (1975-1984)
- *Social Sciences & Humanities Index* (1965-1975)
- *International Index* (1907-1965)

***Other potentially useful databases include:***

### ***AATA Online (Art & Archaeology Technical Abstracts)***

Online abstracts of publications on the management and conservation of material cultural heritage—art, cultural objects, museum collections, archives, library materials, architecture, historic sites & archaeology. Includes a lot of technical material about conservation, materials, techniques.

### ***Academic Search Premier***

Interdisciplinary, with a good percentage full text. Includes both scholarly and popular articles. Includes access to the *Religion & Philosophy Collection*, which you can also search as a separate database.

### ***ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The New York Times***

Provides full-text, full image, cover-to-cover access to the *New York Times* newspaper from 1851 through 2003. Multiple search options are available, including keyword, article type, date ranges, author, issue browsing, and more. Most of those controversies were probably reported here, as were major archaeological discoveries..

## FINDING BOOKS USING LIBRARY CATALOGS & LINK+

### Going Outside SJSU

The easiest and fastest way to get books we don't have (or ones we do have but are checked out or otherwise temporarily unavailable) is Link+. You can click on the Link+ button from our library catalog, or go there directly from this web page. Even if you just want more books than we have on a certain topic, search Link+ by subject or keywords.

Link+ (books only)      <http://www.sjlibrary.org/services/request/linkplus.htm>

Interlibrary Services (also called interlibrary loan) is a service offered by most libraries. Use it for books you can't get through Link+ or articles we don't have. It usually takes a bit longer than Link+ and is harder to predict, but you can get almost anything eventually.

Interlibrary Services      <http://www.sjlibrary.org/services/request/ill.htm>

Don't think of library catalogs just as a record of what's in a library, but as a source of information. Go to the online catalogs of bigger and/or specialized libraries to find out about books on your topic, then request those books from us using Interlibrary Services. The library web site might also have useful research guides on your topic.

### Other Library Catalogs

[http://www.sjlibrary.org/services/request/other\\_libraries.htm](http://www.sjlibrary.org/services/request/other_libraries.htm)

You can also search hundreds of library catalogs throughout the world all at once using this free web site—you can bookmark this one. If you find something that interests you, click on the title for more information. Put in your zip code and the "Libraries" tab will tell you which libraries have it, starting with the one closest to that zip code.

**WorldCat**      <http://www.worldcat.org/>

### SOME ONLINE IMAGE SOURCES

*Grove Art Online* includes "Image Links" with articles and separate image databases:

- *Art Resource*
- *Bridgeman Art Library*

Chris Witcombe's Art History Pages: <http://witcombe.sbc.edu/ARTHLinks.html>

- Includes "ancient Art in General," Mesopotamian, Egyptian

See also the "Ancient" section of my art history web pages:

Library home page  
    SJSU Research Topics  
        Art & Design  
            Art History