

TIPS ON SEARCHING FOR JOURNAL ARTICLES

WHEN YOU HAVE A CITATION:

- **Make sure the citation is for a journal article and not for a book:**

Example of a book citation:

Coontz, Stephanie, The Social Origins of Private Life: a History of American Families, 1600-1900. London and New York, Verso, 1988.

Example of an article citation:

Breen, T.H., "'Baubles of Britain:' The American and Consumer Revolutions of the Eighteenth Century." Past and Present 119 (1988): 73-102.

- **Find out where the *journal* is located:**
 - Search for the title of the journal in DECOPAC
 - Check RLG Union Catalog (the RLG Serials File searches only the serial titles in the RLG Union Catalog) or OCLC's WorldCat
 - Use Card Catalogs and other Print Resources if the Journal is old and/or out of print.
 - Sometimes the article you are looking for will be available electronically through a full-text database such as JSTOR or ProjectMuse. Consult Bard College's A to Z journal list to see if a specific title is available electronically via the Bard College Library website (www.bard.edu/Library)
 - A select list of electronic titles available to the BGC may be searched at ejournals.ebsco.com when on-campus only

WHEN YOU ARE LOOKING FOR ARTICLES IN A PARTICULAR JOURNAL:

- **Find out where the Journal is Indexed:**
 - Look at DECOPAC Record for that title
 - note Indexed in: field (not always available)
 - Check RLG Union Catalog for "Indexed in" field if that information is unavailable in DECOPAC
 - If you have a copy of the Journal, check the publication information. Journals often include a list of indexes on their publication page.
 - Make an educated guess and check the Journal List of various databases. (each electronic database has a section that lists all of the titles they index).
 - Consult The Serials Directory, via Bard College's A-Z list of indexes & databases at www.bard.edu/Library

*Special Case: The Metropolitan Museum of Art Journal and Bulletin is indexed in WATSONLINE. You can search for an article author or article title the same way you would search for a monographic author or title.

WHEN YOU ARE LOOKING FOR ARTICLES ON A SPECIFIC TOPIC:

- **Selecting the appropriate database/index for your search:**
 - There are hundreds of article index databases to choose from. To narrow down the field, the *BGC Library Research Resources* page has selected those databases that are most oriented to studies in the decorative arts, art history, and garden history. They are listed under "Periodical Indexes".
 - Bard College Library has a much larger list of subscription database titles that is organized alphabetically. Examples of some useful databases are: *Humanities Abstracts*, *America History & Life*, *LexisNexis*, *Readers Guide to Periodical Literature*, *ArtideFirst*, and *EBSCO's Academic Search Premier*
 - Each database includes a description of its subject coverage, a list of journals it indexes, and the **date range** it covers. Most indexes go back to the 1980's, with some exceptions, like Art Index Retrospective (indexing back to 1929). For earlier citation information, you will have to consult the print counterparts to these electronic databases available at Columbia, Watson Library and/or NYPL.

CONDUCTING YOUR SEARCH:

- **Choosing your search terms:**
 - Start by brainstorming terms related to your topic. You can use the same terms for an article search that you would use for a monographic search.
 - Use the BROWSE feature available in many databases. For example, in Art Abstracts (current indexing of Art Index), click on Subjects at the top to search the database's subject index.
 - The key is to find one or two relevant records. Then, try hyperlinking from one record's subjects (or descriptors) to other relevant records. Also, familiarize yourself with what a database does and does not cover (and contain, e.g. citations, abstracts, and/so some articles in their entirety).
 - Once you have determined your search terms and the database you are going to use, make sure to check the "searching tips" section of that database to familiarize yourself with the details of how to search. Before long, you will be familiar enough with the databases you use regularly to know how to best conduct your search.

****REMEMBER THAT ONCE YOU LOCATE YOUR JOURNAL ARTICLE CITATION, YOU MUST NEXT FIND THE ACTUAL JOURNAL THAT CONTAINS THE ARTICLE. IN ORDER TO DO THIS YOU MUST CONSULT A MONOGRAPHIC DATABASE SUCH AS DECOPAC, RLG UNION CATALOG, OCLC/WORLDCAT, OR ANOTHER LIBRARY CATALOG. SEEK A LIBRARIAN'S HELP IF NECESSARY.**