In Plain Sight: Re-immersing Ourselves in the Print Reference Collection

Gwen Mayhew, Assistant Museum Librarian for Instruction and Interlibrary Services
The Metropolitan Museum of Art

Annalise Welte, Reference Librarian
Getty Research Institute
Thomas J. Watson Library: a brief history
Thomas J. Watson Library: a brief history
Thomas J. Watson Library: a brief history
Thomas J. Watson Library: a brief history
How it Began

- No formal reference training program in place
- Staff of all levels
- Creating deeper comprehension of the collection: reference from A-Z
Onsite vs. offsite (but not out of sight!)

- Many libraries are facing a space crisis
- Reference collections often being sent offsite or deaccessioned
- Why are these resources underutilized?
Print vs. digital

- Online coverage
- What do print resources cover that digital resources miss?
- “As reference librarians in universities are well aware, the attitude that ‘if it’s not online, it doesn’t exist’ is becoming more prevalent with every passing year.” - John East, *The Subject Encyclopedia in the Age of Wikipedia*
The PARM Sessions

- **Print Art Reference Materials**
  
PARM = Cheese!
- Sessions offered monthly
- All staff invited
- Informal, conversational-style classes
- Focus on relevance for all, not just reader services
- Focus on general art research method themes
PARM SESSION 1: THE WHEY TO BEGIN

- Art Information: Research Methods and Resources
- Guide to the Literature of Art History

PARM SESSION 2: ART ENCYCLOPEDIAS & DICTIONARIES

- Dictionary of Marine Artists
- Dictionary of Venetian Painters
- Encyclopedia: Bronzes, Sculptors, and Founders 1800-1930
- Contemporary American Women Sculptors
- Contemporary Architects or Contemporary Designers
- Who’s Who and/or Who Was Who
- Dictionary of Woodworking Tools
- Encyclopedia of New Orleans Artists: 1718-1918

PARM SESSION 3: FOREIGN LANGUAGE ART TERM DICTIONARIES

- CELF
- KUNST
- LIST
- ART
- فن
- 藝術
- ARTE
- THÁNH

PARM SESSION 4: I CON’T BELIEVE IT’S NOT ONLINE

- Encyclopedia of Animal Symbolism in Art
- African Americans in the Visual Arts
- Encyclopedia of Asian American Artists
- Encyclopedia of Arab American Artists
- Contemporary American Women Sculptors
- Encyclopedia of American Silver Manufacturers
- The Grove Encyclopedia of Islamic Art and Architecture
- Macmillan Encyclopedia of Architects

August 2018 | PARM

November 2018 | PARM
Researcher is researching a French dealer active for a few years in the 19th century, and is hoping to view a biographical encyclopedia to find information.

Consulted E-Resources Biographical section first (thanks Robyn!), and looked at WBIS. No luck there, so referred to Marmor’s Guide to the Literature of Art History (Z5931 .M374 2005) for additional resources. Follow up: I look a little bit more, and The AAM guide to provenance research has a section on dealers.

N3999 .Y45 2001

Tags: e_resource requesting watsonline parm
Encyclopedia of Animal Symbolism in Art

Cat: 1990.59.1

Entry on cats (p. 72-3)

ARLIS/NA 2019 | IN PLAIN SIGHT
The Gods and Symbols of Ancient Egypt

Crown

The insignia of gods and kings also had symbolic significance. Crowns alluded to the character of their wearer; they were above all a symbol of power. According to an ancient inscription the crown nourished the king in order that he might shine in his power.

As rulers of the ‘Two Lands’ kings wore the Double Crown, called the pendant, which was a combination of the mummy-like crown of Upper Egypt, the White, and the Red Crown of Lower Egypt. These two crowns were thought to embody the protective goddesses of royalty, the Upper Egyptian Nekhbet and the Lower Egyptian Wadjet. Since the time of Snefru the crown of double feathers, consisting of two upright ostrich plumes, was worn by the king. From the Eighteenth Dynasty the rulers wore the blue Khepren crown with round gold adorning, the so-called war helmet. The Aten crown, worn predominantly by Osiris, was a combination of the crown of double plumes and the Upper Egyptian crown, but unlike this it had a small solar disc on the tip instead of the blunted peak. The Egyptians who tended to syncretism saw the crowns as the eye of the sun-god but also as the crown and as flame protecting the king.
When the object is "nachos" ...

Dieses Objekt gehört mir  Ceci n’est pas mon objet.  This is not my object.
Looking for resources on Danish silver from the 18th century. Used Jones “Art of Information” and “Guide to the Literature of Art History” behind the ref desk.

Tags: danish silver parm

Metropolitan Museum of Art Libraries · Reference Desk · Patron · Reference · Walk-up · 5-9 minutes · weltea
Looking for information on Wynyard Higginson, painter.
Higginson is a maritime artist, so looked in the Dictionary of Marine Artists (N40 .B8 1982). Very brief bio, but in collection at Peabody Essex. Patron also mentioned that it was related somehow to the Seaman’s Church Institute, but he was unaware that they have an archive, so I provided their contact information.

Tags: parm
Guide to Imagery series

- Food and Feasting in Art
- Artists' Techniques and Materials
- Astrology, Magic, and Alchemy in Art
- Death and Resurrection in Art
- Gardens in Art
- Gods and Heroes in Art
- The History of the Church in Art

- Love and the Erotic in Art
- Medicine in Art
- Music in Art
- Nature and its Symbols
- Old Testament Figures in Art
- Symbols and Allegories in Art
- Symbols of Power in Art
Brie Still, My Art

Still Life with Cheese
Antoine Vollon

18.22.1
Food and Feasting in Art
Still Life with Cheese
Antoine Vollon
Metropolitan Museum of Art
18.22.1

Still Life with Brie
Francois Bonvin
Musee d’Orsay
"Brie is mentioned in Alexandre Dumas' 'Dictionnaire de cuisine.' It is one of the best-known types of cheese, along with Camembert, Livarot, and Roquefort."
Suggestions

- Reach out to nearby colleagues via your local ARLIS chapter
- Invite staff at all levels
- Make relevant to staff from all departments, not just reference
- Find topical resources to start with
- Keep sessions informal
- Encourage discussion
Suggestions

- Reach out to nearby colleagues via your local ARLIS chapter
- Invite staff at all levels
- Make relevant to staff from all departments, not just reference
- Find topical resources to start with
- Keep sessions informal
- Encourage discussion
- Use clip art
2. FRENCH PATRONAGE

FRENCH PATRONAGE

Guide to the Literature of Art History (GLAH)
Contemporary American Women Sculptors

Dorothy Dehner

Born December 23, 1901 Cleveland, Ohio

Selected Group Exhibitions
1957. Major museums and galleries in the United States, Canada, South America, Europe.

Selected Bibliography
Marter, Joan M. "Dorothy Dehner." Arts Magazine vol. 53 no. 7 (March 1979) p. 4, illus.
Papers included in the Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution, New York, New York.

Selected Group Exhibitions
1957. Major museums and galleries in the United States, Canada, South America, Europe.

Public Collections
Baskets Ridge, New Jersey Museum of Art, Cleveland, Ohio Museum of Art, Columbus, Ohio Collage of Art, Jacksonville, Florida
Great Southwest Industrial Park, Atlanta, Georgia Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.

Gallery Affiliation
Harison Gallery, Washington, D.C.
1964. Albany Institute of History and Art, Albany, New York
1965. Jewish Museum, New York, New York, retrospective and catalog
1969. Cummer Gallery of Art, Jacksonville, Florida, catalog

Mailing Address
33 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York 10019

Newark Museum, Newark, New Jersey
Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia.
unicornsnocone Meeting incentives (AKA chocolate chip cheese cake brownies.)

awelte !!!!!

ewnyc Can I go to your meeting, please??

tinulala Aka The real reason we come to work!

jen_ga_Droooooool

jacqueline_b Come to my meetings 😇

22 likes

APRIL 29
Resources for further reading


Contact information

- Gwen Mayhew
  - gwen.mayhew@metmuseum.org

- Annalise Welte
  - awelte@getty.edu
  - @la.terature