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Annotated Bibliography Assignment for an Art History Class

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Annotated Bibliography Assignment for an Art History Class

Instructor note: This assignment aims to help students explore various ways to find scholarly sources for academic research papers using Primo, Google Scholar, and Elicit. It is designed to be completed individually by students in an asynchronous 200-level course. For example, I use this assignment in my 200-level art history survey course as an introduction to the research process. This assignment contains two parts: first, identifying a topic and research question and finding sources, and second, annotating two of the identified sources.

Annotated Bibliography Assignment – Part 1

Purpose

This assignment will familiarize you with selecting and researching an academic topic and writing an annotated bibliography. These are steps associated with writing an academic research paper. You will not write an academic paper in this class. Instead, you will practice the steps necessary for researching a paper topic. In this assignment, you will select a topic, identify a research question, and use research tools to find scholarly sources that address your topic. Later this semester, you will write annotations for references identified in this assignment.

Skills & Knowledge

The purpose of this assignment is to help you practice the following academic skills essential to your success in this course and beyond:

- Demonstrate understanding of art historical styles, movements, and cultural periods.
- Infer search terms for your selected topic.
- Apply your knowledge of styles, movements, and periods by experimenting with online academic search tools.
- Identify and access scholarly information needed for your research topic.
- Examine selected references critically for applicability to your research topic and alignment with course concepts.
- Apply information use strategies (citations, summaries, etc.) to support the ethical and accurate documentation of scholarly sources.
- Evaluate the efficacy of the search tools through a reflection on your research experience.

Tasks

Please complete the following steps in order:



Step 1: Select a Topic

To start your research, you need to identify a topic you would like to research. I encourage you to be specific in your topic selection, if possible. For example, if you choose Ancient Roman art, narrow your topic to a specific period and artwork. For example, you could narrow your search on Roman art to Roman Republican art, specifically the frescoes at Pompeii.

Please choose one of the following:

- Paleolithic art
 - *Venus of Willendorf*
- Neolithic art
 - *Catal Hoyuk, Turkey*
 - *Stonehenge, England*
- Mesopotamian symbols of power
 - *Akkadian Head of a Ruler*
 - *Assyrian wall reliefs at Nineveh*
 - *Assyrian Lamassu*
 - *Neo-Babylonian Ishtar Gate*
- Ancient Egyptian artwork:
 - *Old Kingdom – Pyramids at Giza or Statue of Khafre*
 - *New Kingdom – Wall painting from the Tomb of Nebamun, or Pylon Temple at Luxor or Karnak*
- Ancient Aegean frescoes:
 - *Toreador Fresco*
 - *La Parisienne*
 - *Spring Fresco*
- Ancient Greek sculpture or architecture
 - *Doryphoros*
 - *Nike of Samothrace*
 - *Laocoon and His Sons*
 - *Parthenon*
- Ancient Roman art or architecture:
 - *Augustus at Prima Porta*
 - *Flavian Amphitheatre (Coliseum),*
 - *Pantheon*
- Byzantine architecture
 - *Hagia Sophia*
 - *San Vitale*
- Early Christian mosaics
 - *Christ with Apostles at Sant' Apollinare Nuovo*
 - *Christ as Good Shepherd - Mausoleum of Galla Placidia*
- Medieval illuminated manuscripts:
 - *Book of Kells*
 - *Lindisfarne Gospels*
 - *Ebbo Gospels*

- Romanesque art:
 - *Last Judgement Tympanum* at Autun
 - *Hildegard Reveals Her Visions*, illumination from *Scivias* by Hildegard of Bingen
- Gothic cathedrals:
 - Chartres Cathedral
 - Reims Cathedral
 - Amiens Cathedral

List your selected topic here: _____

Describe why you selected this topic: _____

Step 2: Identify a Research Question

The key to productive research is a clear and precise research question. Clarity in research questions is achieved by describing what you want to know about your topic. Precision in research questions is achieved by asking about a specific aspect of what you want to know. For example, research questions for a study of Ancient Roman wall paintings at Pompeii might include:

- “How were the paintings in the Villa of Mysteries used by members of the cult of Dionysus in Ancient Roman culture?” (We want to know about Ancient Roman culture by analyzing representations in the Villa of Mysteries.)
- “In what ways do the paintings found in Pompeii reflect Ancient Roman Republican political customs?” (We want to know about ancient Roman political customs and how these customs are illustrated on frescoes at Pompeii.)

Note that these questions begin with the words “why”, “how”, and “in what ways” and are not yes-no questions. It is important that your research question be open-ended to allow for exploration in your research.

To develop a research question, first read the section in your textbook and look at the lecture slides relevant to your selected topic. You can also listen to the associated recorded lecture. Then, as you are reading and listening, write down questions about anything about the artwork that you find interesting, compelling, or want to learn more about. You will likely come up with several observations. Then, narrow your observations to one question by completing the following:

1. List your observations here:
2. What do you want to know about?
3. What specific aspects of the artwork do you want to know about?
4. Write your research question here. Remember to write an open-ended question by starting your question with “How”, “Why”, “In what ways”, etc.:

Step 2: Think of Search Terms

Based on the observations you collected in the first step and guided by your research question, consider at least three terms relevant to your investigation. You can use these words as search terms to plug into research resources as you begin your research in the next step:

- _____
- _____
- _____

Step 3: Research

Use your research question and initial search terms as guides to find four quality sources on your topic. **Please note that “quality” means a scholarly, up-to-date, relevant source, accessible as a PDF or in library holdings and written in a language you can read.** You can look for one book and three scholarly articles using the following scholarly resources:

- [Primo](#) is the Chester Fritz Library website search tool. It is designed to search for books, articles, videos, and other resources in the library holdings. The resources have been curated by Librarians and faculty, and scholarly work can easily be identified. You will use Primo to find a book relevant to your research question.
- [Art and Architecture Source and JSTOR](#) are databases of scholarly articles from content-specific journals. The Chester Fritz Library purchases access to these and many other databases. To search for articles on either of these databases, go to the [library homepage](#), click Quick Links, and then type in the database name. You can find an article using this resource.
- [Google Scholar](#) provides access to articles and books within and beyond the Chester Fritz Library holdings. Access Google Scholar through the Chester Fritz Library to jump the paywall. Google Scholar also allows reverse citation searches, a handy research tool. You can find an article using this resource.
- [Elicit](#) uses artificial intelligence technology to search for resources and is geared toward social and hard science research. While the resources are not curated, the tool uses predictive text to suggest new search terms and prompts. You can find an article using this resource.

Step 4: Record Your Findings

Using your research question and initial search terms as guides, record **one** book and **three** promising articles below. Remember that your book should be accessible within the library holdings (as a hard copy or online), and your articles should be accessible as PDFs.

Title of a promising article or book for your topic in MLA citation	Description / Why did you choose this source?	Permalink/ DOI to get back to the source
Book from Primo:		
Article from Art & Architecture Source or JSTOR:		
Article from Google Scholar:		
Article from Elicit:		

Step 5: Find New Search Terms

Read the abstracts of articles and a summary of the book you have selected and look for relevant terms that you can use for future searches. Add at least three new search terms here:

- _____
- _____
- _____

Step 6: Reflect

Reflect on your experience using Primo, Art and Architecture Source or JSTOR, Google Scholar, and Elicit to find research resources. In what ways did your searches result in quality sources? Which was the easiest tool for you to use and why? Which did you find most challenging and why? How do you expect you will use these tools in future research projects?

Criteria for Success

Successful assignments will include a relevant topic selection, a thoughtful explanation of the selection, and identification of initial search terms. Successful assignments will also include selecting timely, relevant, and accessible research resources and additional search terms that demonstrate an understanding of the associated topic's relationship. Lastly, successful assignments will include a thoughtful reflection on your experience using the search tools.

Rubric

All components of the assignment are completed:

Yes – continue to rubric

No – resubmit

	Excellent 3	Proficient 2	Developing 1	Not Provided 0
A relevant topic was selected and explained.				
Initial search terms are relevant to the topic.				
Quality research resources were identified using each research tool.				
The research resources identified align with the course content and are cited appropriately.				
The essay includes a thoughtful reflection on using research resources on this and future projects.				
Total Points:				

Annotated Bibliography Assignment – Part 2

Instructor note: Students should complete this assignment later in the semester after they have found relevant scholarly sources and had time to review them.

An annotated bibliography provides information about sources you use to research your term paper topic. For this assignment, write an annotation (in-depth summary and analysis) for two of the scholarly sources you selected for your topic.

Each annotation should include the MLA citation for the source and at least two paragraphs: the first paragraph should summarize the text, and the second paragraph should reflect on why you chose this source.