Using Grove art online in art & design research

Goals:

- To learn how to find information on art works, art terminology and artists using the reference sources at the Littman Architecture Library, focusing on Grove art online.
- To learn how to use Grove art online to find images of works by various artists.
- To learn how to best utilize the tools offered by Grove art online.

Research on an artist, a work of art, or an art movement is best begun by consulting with various art & design resources in the Reference aisle at the Littman Architecture Library, and the Online Reference Shelf. When browsing the Reference section in the Library, pay attention to call numbers that begin with the letters below, as they determine how books in the library are arranged. These letters are referred to as the Library of Congress Classification (LC).

N – Fine Arts
NA – Architecture
NB – Sculpture
NC – Drawing, Design, Illustration
ND – Painting
NE – Print Media
NK – Decorative Arts
NX – Arts in General

Additionally, materials on digital art or design can be located in these LC classification areas:

TR – Photography
T – Technology

Furthermore, Grove art online is an excellent starting point to begin research.

*Grove art online* is essentially an online visual art encyclopedia. It is part of the *Oxford Art Online*, a result of a 2008 redesign of Grove art online which expanded to include the addition of Oxford art reference content. Oxford art online “offers the most extensive and easily searchable online art resource available today.” With the option to view biographies, subject entries, or images, greater access is available to more than 23,000 subject entries, 21,000 biographies, 500,000 bibliographic citations, 40,000 image links and 50,000 images. Oxford art online includes access to, and the ability to search simultaneously, *Grove art online*, *The Oxford Companion to Western Art*, *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Art Terms*, and the *Encyclopedia of Aesthetics*. 
Grove Art Online is the expanded electronic version of *The Dictionary of Art*. (New York: Grove’s Dictionaries, 1996- v.1-34), located in the ArchLib Reference Stacks N31.D5 1996

Grove dictionary of art is found under **databases by subject** the Littman Architecture Library home page.
Find Grove dictionary of art alphabetically by title, or by subject (art and architecture)
You may **browse** or **search** Oxford Art Online.

The simple search function is located on the home page; the search box in the middle of the screen has the option to **Search by source**, or **Search for images only**.

**Search by source** will allow you to search the sources in Oxford Art Online that have a box checked. The type of information you will retrieve using this option depends on which source you have chosen by checking the appropriate box (es). Leaving all the boxes for source checked would be the same as searching four encyclopedias/dictionaries at one time!

If you are beginning research on the French painter Edouard Manet, you may choose to search all four sources at once by leaving all boxes checked. Type *Edouard Manet* (correct spelling is important) or *Manet* in the **Search by source** text box and click Search.
These results (96 hits) represent all sources on the topic, Edouard Manet, and include biographies of the artist, subject entries for a specific term that is related to the artist, or images of his works of art. The sources that were searched are indicated by the check marks in the left side bar.

The left side bar also gives you the option to narrow down your results to display only biographies, subject entries, or images by checking the appropriate box and clicking **Go**.

**Number 1** on the list of results above is a biography of Edouard Manet, and the source for this biography is Grove Art Online. Here is the full record, which can be retrieved by clicking the highlighted link for the entry.
The left side bar in the encyclopedic entry lists the linked contents to different sections of the article. The tabs at the top of the article page leads to images related to this topic, and related content, which leads to other articles in the database that can be consulted for further research.

The simple search function on the home page will allow you to search for images only. This is indicated in the second text search box on the home page. If you would like, for instance, to search for a particular Manet painting, *A Bar at the Folies-Bergere*, you would type the title of the work into the text box and hit search.

There is one result for this very specific image search:
Click on the highlighted link to get to the image and information associated with it.
Note the options on this page:

- Click image to enlarge.
- The caption for this image that contains all information associated with it.
- Where else in this database the image is referenced. The link will lead to a biography of the artist.
- To cite this image, click on the orange icon at the top right of the page. The image is cited for you using the MLA and Chicago style manuals. Your choice of style manual will depend on what you professor requires.

Advanced Search Screen in Oxford Art Online

The **Advanced Search** Screen will display more options (Advanced Search box option is at the upper right corner of each page), and the tabs at the top of the page will link to
limiters for images (in Grove Art Online), biographies and bibliographies (in all sources), the latter of which could be helpful in leading you forward in your research.

Advanced Search Screen

Advanced Search in Oxford Art Online will allow a more guided search on a topic by providing more options to narrow down not only by the individual source, but also by topical subcategories in Grove Art Online, and to search for particular keyword or term only within the full article text, the entry title (title of the article), the bibliographies, or contributors. For specific pointers on using Advanced Search, refer to Help on the right side of the page.

Additionally, you may choose to use the tabs at the top of the Advanced Search page if you are specifically looking for just images, biographies, or bibliographies. Each option offers search pointers under Help.
Browsing Oxford Art Online

If you choose to browse, you may click on the links to **All content**, **biographies**, **subject entries**, or **images** at the top of the page.

**All Content** will allow you to alphabetically browse everything in Oxford Art Online: biographies, subject entries, and images, with further options to refine by source or category (left side of page).

If you wish to, you may browse only certain types of content; you can browse **just** biographies, subject entries or images.

Citing in Oxford Art Online

Each page containing an article, image or subject entry has an orange icon at the top right of the page labeled “Cite”. Clicking this will link you a page that gives you options for
citing the article, image, or subject entry, and includes other pertinent information. For the example above:

Here you are presented with options to cite one of your entries for Edouard Manet in MLA or Chicago Style, along with the option to export your citation to any citation software you may be using, such as Endnote.

Any abbreviations used in these citations are explained at the bottom of the page.

If you need any additional help please do not hesitate to contact Jessica O’Donnell Jessica.l.odonnell@njit.edu or Maya Gervits maya.gervits@njit.edu