This guide for conducting library research on topics in art or the work of a particular artist presents suggestions for utilizing four categories of resources: books, dictionaries and encyclopedias, indexes, and a periodicals and serials list (PASL). Three topics are researched as examples: the contemporary artist and author Frank Stella, the Baroque artist Caravaggio, and the technique of paper art. Although this guide discusses the resources available at the J. Murrey Atkins Library of the University of North Carolina (Charlotte), it also can be useful to people conducting library research on art topics in general. (DB)
RESOURCES FOR TOPICS IN ART

Compiled by Judith Van Noate
Reference Librarian
Reference Unit, Atkins Library, UNC-C
547-2333

INTRODUCTION

Resources for research on a topic in art fall into these basic categories:

1. Books
2. Dictionaries and encyclopedias (for background information)
   a. General Art encyclopedias
   b. Specialized dictionaries and handbooks
3. Indexes
   a. Art Index
   b. Indexes to journals in related areas
   c. Online indexes
4. P.A.S.L.

Before you begin:

1. Prepare a short statement of your topic. Remember you are not tied to this topic; you may modify it during the course of your research.
2. Make a list of words and phrases that describe or are related to your topic.
3. List relevant personal names, dates, etc.

Using the guidelines in this handout should enable you to research the work of an individual artist or style or aspects of a process or medium. The examples used in this handout are the contemporary artist and author, Frank Stella, the Proto Baroque artist Caravaggio and the technique of paper art. Illustrations are from: The Prints of Frank Stella, a Catalogue Raisonne, 1967-1982, by Richard H. Axsom, Hudson Hills Press, New York, 1983.
BOOKS

There are two sources in Atkins Library for finding books, ALADDIN and the card catalog. ALADDIN contains entries for all items processed by the library since 1976. Only a small percentage of the library's holdings are still in the card catalog. There is no duplication; for full coverage of a subject you need to consult both catalogs. Both ALADDIN and the card catalog contain author, title, and subject entries.

Library of Congress Subject Headings

Because ALADDIN and the card catalog use controlled or "authorized" subject headings, you will need to consult Library of Congress Subject Headings to find the correct form to use for your topic. These are the large red books kept near the ALADDIN terminals. By using exactly the right term you can go directly to items on your subject. Also, most subject entries in Library of Congress Subject Headings will include related terms which may help broaden, narrow or define your research.

Symbols used in Library Of Congress Subject Headings:

BOLD PRINT authorized term

UF used for, the terms under UF are not used, USE gives the preferred term

BT broader term

RT related term

NT narrower term

SA see also

-- subheading to be added to the main term

--- 2nd subheading which may be added to the 1st subheading.

Note: Atkins Library does not have books on all of these subjects. ALADDIN will give a message that reads "NO QUALIFYING ENTRIES FOUND--PLEASE ENTER NEW COMMAND" to tell you the library does not have a book on a certain subject. If this happens use Library of Congress Subject Headings to find a broader term for your topic.

Examples:

Art, Renaissance (May Subd Geog)
UF Renaissance art
NT Little masters (Artists)

— Attribution
UF Art, Renaissance—Attribution
BT Art, Renaissance—Attribution
RT Attribution of Renaissance art
NT Attribution of Renaissance art

— Classical influences
BT Classical art
RT Classical art

— Early Renaissance (May Subd Geog)
UF Art, Early Renaissance
NT Early Renaissance art

Art, Modern (May Subd Geog)
UF Modern art
NT Modern art

— 17th-18th centuries (May Subd Geog)
NT Early Modern art

— History
UF Art History—17th-18th centuries
ALADDIN COMMANDS

These are some of the basic commands for the ALADDIN system.

`t/` title search—enter `t/` followed by the title of a book

`a/` author search

`s/` subject search

`c/` call number search

`w/` keyword search—enter `w/` followed by one word

`b/` boolean search

negates the previous search

`/ns` Goes to the next screen.

`/ps` Goes to the previous screen.

`/ca` Goes to a screen which gives call number, bibliographic information, and subject headings under which that title is listed. The screen looks somewhat like a card from the card catalog.

`/redo` Retrieves the last search, skipping any intervening screens which were viewed.

`/help` Provides general instructions for the basic commands.

`help` (without the `/`). Retrieves a detailed explanation of the screen currently on display.

`?` Brings up the "Novice User System" which gives detailed information on using the various search capacities of the ALADDIN system. Follow the instructions given on the screen.

**STRIKE THE RETURN KEY AFTER EACH COMMAND**

Note: At present, ALADDIN contains records for all books processed by the library since 1977. ONLY RECORDS NOT YET ENTERED INTO THE ALADDIN SYSTEM CAN BE FOUND THROUGH THE CARD CATALOG. Thus, only a small percentage of the library's holdings can be found by using the card catalog.
ALADDIN examples: the subject search

Proper names for people, places, etc., are not included in Library of Congress Subject Headings. However, they can be used as subjects. In ALADDIN type "s/last name, first initial." Here, because I wasn't sure of the correct form of his name, I typed "s/caravaggio." You don't need to capitalize or use punctuation, but you can if you want to. ALADDIN will ignore it. Don't put a space after the / mark.

s/caravaggio

J. MURREY ATKINS LIBRARY- - - - VTLS-89 - - - - - QUALIFYING SUBJECTS
2. 7 Caravaggio, Michelangelo Merisi da. 1573-1610.

Enter NEW COMMAND or LINE # of selection or 'HELP'.

From this list of QUALIFYING SUBJECTS enter the LINE # of your choice. To see the three books on Caravaggio enter 1. This brings up the PUBLICATIONS ON SELECTED SUBJECT screen, which shows a bibliographic citation (Author, title, place, publisher, date) for each book.

J. MURREY ATKINS LIBRARY- - - - VTLS-89 - - - - PUBLICATIONS ON SELECTED SUBJECT
7 Subject: Caravaggio. Michelangelo Merisi da. 1573-1610.

   AUTHOR ----- Bonsanti, Giorgio.

2. MAIN TITLE - Caravaggio / Howard Hibbard.
   AUTHOR ----- Hibbard, Howard. 1926-
   EDITION ----- 1st ed.

3. MAIN TITLE - Caravaggio studies / by Walter Friedlaender.
   Enter 'NS' for more

Enter NEW COMMAND or LINE # of selection or 'HELP'.

From this screen enter the LINE # for the specific book you want. This will give you the ITEM SCREEN which shows:

Call Number (all books are assigned and shelved by Library of Congress classification numbers)
Location: GENERAL COLLECTION (can be checked out. These are kept in the tower), REFERENCE (use in library), etc.
Status: AVAILABLE or CHECKED OUT (gives date due)
Here is a BIBLIOGRAPHIC SCREEN for Frank Stella's Working Space, which deals with the influence of Caravaggio (see #5 on the QUALIFYING SUBJECTS screen). Frequently the list of subject headings at the end of a BIBLIOGRAPHIC SCREEN can help you expand, narrow or clarify your topic.

J. MURREY ATKINS LIBRARY--VTLS-89--BIBLIOGRAPHIC SCREEN
CALL NUMBER: ND196.A2 573 1986
AUTHOR: Stella, Frank
TITLE: Working space / Frank Stella.
NOTE: Includes index.
SUBJECT: Rubens, Peter Paul, Sir, 1577-1640 -- Influence.
SUBJECT: Space (Art)

Enter 'C' for CIRCULATION INFORMATION

BEST COPY AVAILABLE
To learn more about ALADDIN you can call up the "Novice User Search System." Simply enter the "?" mark.

? MURREY ATHENS LIBRARY - - - - - - VTLS - - - - - - NOVICE USERS MENU

Welcome to the VTLS Novice User Search System: To search on-line simply type the number that appears in front of the kind of search you wish to perform and press the RETURN key.

1. Author Search
2. Subject Search
3. Title Search
4. Call Number Search
5. ISSN Search
6. LCIN Search

To learn how to use the VTLS Advanced User Search System to perform a particular search type its number, then a space, then a question mark (e.g., ? 4) and press the RETURN key. If you wish to perform an advanced search, you may do so at any time simply by entering a valid search command.

Please enter your SELECTION:

Useful aspects of this "Search System" are the "Call Number, Keyword, and Boolean" methods. Here is an example of a QUALIFYING CALL NUMBERS SCREEN:

c/n6512

1. N6512 A54 Title - American art since 1950: an exhibition prepared by the

2. N6512 A556 1975 Author - Alloway, Lawrence, 1926-
Title - Topics in American art since 1945 - Lawrence Alloway.

3. N6512 A578 1982 Title - American artists: an illustrated survey of leading

Title - Artists against war and fascism : papers of the First

5. N6512 A586 1982 Title - American artists on art from 1940 to 1980 - edited by

6. N6512 A615 1974 Author - American Institute of Graphic Arts,
Title - Color: [catalogue] : an exhibition of original work of

Please enter NEW COMMAND, LINE #, or HELP
Or enter NS' for next screen or PS for previous screen.

If you need additional help with ALADDIN or Library of Congress Subject Headings, please ask a librarian at the 1st floor reference desk.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE
DICTIONARIES AND ENCYCLOPEDIAS

These sources range from the general to the specific. Dictionaries generally contain shorter "overview" type articles and are a good place to start, especially if you need help in defining or narrowing your topic. Encyclopedias have longer articles for more in-depth coverage of subjects. They may contain useful references which will lead you to additional information.

GENERAL DICTIONARIES AND ENCYCLOPEDIAS
(All of the following are housed in the Atkins Reference collection.)

Ref   The Britannica Encyclopedia of American Art
N 6505 B73
Contains artists' biographies; articles on styles, movements, etc. Color illustrations. Published in 1973. Two columns on Stella.

Ref   Encyclopedia of World Art
N 31 E4833
This is a major multivolume encyclopedia with long in-depth articles. Artist's biographies, discussions of styles and movements as well as historical, political, sociological and religious overviews of major cultural groups in relationship to their artistic contributions. Maps, line drawings and color plates. Nine pages on Caravaggio with bibliography. Published in 1960.

Ref   McGraw-Hill Dictionary of Art
N 33 M23
Actually not a dictionary, but a five volume encyclopedia with illustrated articles of varying length (50-2,000 words). Includes artists' biographies and articles on styles, periods, cities, buildings, museums, and definitions. Illustrations are excellent. One paragraph on Stella, longer article on Caravaggio.

Ref   The Oxford Companion to Art
N 33 O9
One of the best sources for an introduction to a subject. The well written, medium length articles discuss artists, styles, techniques, art history, etc. Comprehensive.

CARAVAGGIO, properly MICHELANGELO MERISI DA CARAVAGGIO (1571-1610). He is named after his birthplace, a small town near Bergamo. His early experience of the works of LOTTO, SAVOLDO, and the VENETIANS was more significant than his actual training under a weak pupil of TITIAN. He was in Rome by 1592 where, apart from the frequent scandal caused by his tempestuous character, he was criticized for his Venetian method of working in oils directly from the natural model on to the canvas without the careful preparations traditional in central Italy.

Caravaggio fled from Rome in 1606 after killing a man in a brawl, and spent the last four years of his life wandering from Naples to Malta and Sicily. He continued to paint huge religious compositions in a new style shorn of all inessentials: little colour, thinly applied paint, the crowded drama and movement of the late Roman works replaced by a moving silence and contemplativeness. Remarkable among these is The Beheading of St. John Baptist (Malta). Caravaggio was not yet 37 when he died from malarial fever while returning to Rome in hope of a pardon. It is ironical that his last works have all the ineffable qualities of the late works of an aged genius, and have found no imitators.
The Oxford Dictionary of Art

"an overview of Western art forms and of individual artists from antiquity to our own day. This volume updates The Oxford Companion to Art and The Oxford Companion to Twentieth-Century Art, but focuses on western art. Like all the Oxford reference dictionaries, this is an excellent and authoritative sources for brief information on artists, art movements, styles, techniques, etc.

SPECIALIZED DICTIONARIES AND HANDBOOKS

Artist Biographies Master Index

If you're having trouble finding information on an artist, use this. It indexes sources for biographical material on more than 275,000 artists, illustrators, designers, architects, photographers, etc. Use the key to source codes on the yellow end papers and PASL to determine if Atkins Library has the source.

Here is an example for Frank Stella:

Stella, Frank 1936- AmArt, ConArt '77-'83, DeAmArt, DeCAA '71-'77, DeCar '81, MGGDA, OtTwCA, Premier '83-'85, WOAAMA '71-'76, '78-'80, '82-'86, WhoArts/port]

Dictionary of Contemporary American Artists

Data on the careers of 923 artists. Useful for in-depth research. Look up abbreviations to references in the "Bibliography" at the back of the book.

Whos Who in American Art

Brief profiles of more than 11,000 artists and art related professionals from the United States, Canada and Mexico. In alphabetical order by artist. Indexed by profession and geographic location.
Illustrated Dictionary of Art Terms: A Handbook for the Artist and Art Lover

"A simple guide to terms frequently encountered in books, magazine articles, catalogs and even television programmes on making and looking at works of art." Illustrated. Brief bibliography for further reading.

from the entry on paper:

Arches: similar to Ingres; suitable for pastel work.
Art paper: coated with China clay and calendered to give a hard, shiny surface.
Bristol Board: a very smooth drawing surface made by mounting a good HP paper on fastenerboard; suitable for pen and ink and other illustration work.
Carcano: similar to Ingres.
Cartridge: a smooth paper with a low degree of absorbency; suitable for drawing in pencil, crayon and for some pen and ink work.
Fabriano: similar to Ingres.

The Artist's Handbook

Subtitled: "The complete, practical guide to the tools, techniques and materials of painting, drawing, and printmaking. With more than 1,000 illustrations." A tremendously useful and up to date source of information.

Dictionary of Art

"A reference work for practicing artists." It includes definition to "words which refer to the techniques, tools, and materials of art."

Index to Two-Dimensional Art Works

A guide to sources of illustrations of art works compiled from 250 books published between 1960 and 1977. Emphasis on artists working in the western tradition including American. Arranged by artist with a guide to abbreviations for the books used listed in the front.
The Oxford Companion to Twentieth Century Art

"a reference book . . . dealing with personalities and movements in the world of contemporary art. Biographical and descriptive of work, sources and influences. Entries are short overview type. One-half page on Stella. This is a good place to begin.

Phaidon Dictionary of Twentieth Century Art

Deals with established artists whose major creative phases fall within this century. Brief biographies with descriptive discussion of the development of an artist's work. One page on Stella.

British Art

Covers from the Anglo-Saxon era to the present day in painting, sculpture, and printmaking. "Entries will be found for the more important artists, and also such topics as schools, concepts, techniques, institutions, patrons and writers on art. Illustrated, references.

World Artists 1950-1980

Biographies of 312 artists who both worked and were influential during this thirty year period; "Outstanding figures from many countries, representing a wide variety of styles and movements." Includes graphic media as well as painting and sculpture. Four pages on Stella.

Visual Arts Research

A detailed and up to date guide to research on art related topics. Includes technical information on choosing topics, preparing bibliographies and outlines, style manuals, using the library, computerized reference services, finding information on artists, art history topics, art works.
INDEXES

For the most current information on a topic, you will need to use articles in journals, magazines and newspapers. These are indexed in one or more periodical indexes. There are separate indexes for newspapers.

Indexes range from the very broad in scope such as Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature to those more specialized such as Art Index. Indexes generally are arranged alphabetically by subject; relevant citations follow each heading. The citation includes:

- Author(s) of journal article
- Title of journal article
- Journal title (usually abbreviated—a list of abbreviations is located in the front of the index volume)
- Volume number, and if available, issue number of the journal
- Pages on which the article appears
- Date of the journal

Stella, Frank

about title of article author of article

The space around real things. C. Tomkins. por New Yorker 60:53-4+ S 10 '84

volume number

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

13
INDEX

Art Index

This is the primary source for articles on art topics. Covers domestic and foreign publications. Author and subject entries are in one alphabet. Also available through WILSEARCH.

Caravaggio, Michelangelo Merisi da, 1573-1610

about
Caravaggio: a reassessment [review]. L. Salerno. jpt col
Apollo 19 no. 363-441 Je '84
.silder. Boy panning a bitter fruit (detail: Christ at the
column.
Carter Ratcliff reflections—painting's rebel angel. C. Ratc-
cliff. col. ibp. Art 11 no. 171-2 My '85
Entombment of Christ.
Rebel with a cause. The age of Caravaggio. Metropolitan
Museum of Art, New York, traveling exhibit. D. Hains
ibpt col. Connoisseur 215:12-7 F '85
.u. Saint Catherine of Alexandria. (detail: The Mar-
terdom of Saint Andrew. Supper at Emmaus. David
with the head of Goliath. The Musicians.
Reproductions
Boy bitten by lizard.
Am. Artist 49:21 Ap '85
The Calling of St. Matthew,
Architecture 17:49 Ag '84 col.
David with the head of Goliath. (detail: 1605-16)
Accenti 417:70 D '84 col.
Self-portrait
Am. Artist 49:12 F '85

INDEX

Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature

AI

3

R48

Indexes popular type magazines. Although articles are
generally not scholarly in nature, the index
does cover news magazines such as Time and Newsweek
which have regular art critics and cultural magazines
such as Smithsonian which has in-depth articles on
artists and art movements. Reader's Guide is kept
in the index area near the reference desk. Subjects
are in alphabetical order. Abbreviations are in
the front.

Caravaggio, Michelangelo Merisi da, 1573-1610

about
Art. A. C. Danto. Nation 240:250-2 Mr 2 '85
The art world. S. Schwartz. New Yorker 61:73-8 S 2
Caravaggio at the Met. J. C. Force. Commonweal
112:280-1 My 3 '85
Caravaggio: the triumph of sensation. B. Rose. jpt col
175:504-5 Mr '85
Conversations with Caravaggio. K. Larson. jn Y 18:54-5
F 25 '85
The dark beauty of Caravaggio. C. Ratcliff. jn por
Harper's Bazaar 118:450-1 F '85
Genius of the low life. J. Ashbery. jn Newsweek 105:86-7
F 18 '85
Is Caravaggio our contemporary? J. Gardner. Commentary
70:55-61 Je '85
Master of the gesture. R. Hughes. jn Time 125:74-5 Mr
11 '85
Mysterious mystery tour. K. Larson. jn Y 18:56-7 Ja
21 '85
On Caravaggio. F. Stella. jn por. N Y Times Mag p38-9+ F
3 '85
On two dubious Caravaggio. C. Ratcliff. bibl. jn Art
Am 73:138-43 N '85
Shadows and the light. C. Speck. jn Horizon 28:22-31
Ap '85

Stella, Frank

about
The space around real things. C. Tonkums. jn New
Yorker 60:53-4+ S 10 '84

Stella, Frank

about
Frank Stella: portrait of the artist as an image ad-
ministrator. C. Ratcliff. bibl. jn Am 73:4-10 F '85
Frank Stella's Norton Lectures: a response. R. Storr.
jn Am 73:11+ F '85

Gella, Frank

about
On Caravaggio. jn por. N Y Times Mag p38-9+ F 3
'85
Frank Stella: portrait of the artist as an image ad-
ministrator. C. Ratcliff. bibl. jn Am 73:4-10 F '85
Frank Stella's Norton Lectures: a response. R. Storr.
jn Am 73:11+ F '85

14 BEST COPY AVAILABLE
InfoTrac

InfoTrac is a computerized index which includes about five years of references to articles in both newspapers (National Newspaper Index) and magazines/journals (General Periodicals Index). Several InfoTrac terminals are located across from the reference desk.

The newspaper portion of the data base includes entries from the Christian Science Monitor, the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, the Washington Post, and the Los Angeles Times. This is the most current source for newspaper articles (including book reviews). It does not give abstracts.

The citations includes: the title of the article, the author, abbreviations such as "il" (illustrated), the length of the article expressed in "col in" (column inches), the volume number (v), title of the newspaper, date, section page. Note: for the New York Times it gives the page numbers for the Late (L) and National (N) editions. Atkins Library takes the Late edition. For the Wall Street Journal it gives pages for the Eastern (E) and Western (W) editions. The library takes the Eastern edition.

The General Periodicals portion of the database contains references to articles in approximately 1100 journals. Both databases are updated monthly and are the most current of the periodical indexes. Most references will be to reviews or "newsy" events involving the artist.

Here is an example form the General Periodicals Index.

MERISI, MICHELANGELO
-criticism, interpretation, etc.

Art. (Caravaggio, Metropolitan Museum, New York) by Arthur C. Danto v240 Nation March 2 '85 p250(3)

Caravaggio: the triumph of sensation (Caravaggio, Metropolitan Museum of Modern Art, New York City) by Barbara Rose il v175 Vogue March '85 p504(3)

Genius of the low life; Caravaggio's canvases glow with disturbing beauty. (The age of Caravaggio, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York) by John Ashberry il v105 Newsweek Feb 18 '85 p86 (2)

On Caravaggio. by Frank Stella il v134 New York Times Magazine Feb 3 '85 p38(6)
The New York Times Index

This is an extremely important source for information on artists and art movements. The New York Times treats the art scene in-depth and devotes a whole section of its Sunday edition to the arts. The newspaper has its own index which gives summaries or abstracts of significant articles.

Citations give month, day, section (in Roman numerals), page and column. S, M, L refer to short, medium and long articles. Subjects are arranged in alphabetical order, and then by date under each subject.

Example:

CARAVAGGIO, Michelangelo Merisi de (1573-1610). See also Art. 1a 27. P 3, 8

This example means: See the topic "Art" for the dates January 27 and February 3 and 8. The year is the same for the date of the volume, 1985.

Michael Brenson previews exhibit of paintings by Caravaggio scheduled to open Feb 9 at Metropolitan Museum of Art; photo. Jn 7.11.1 3

Frank Stella article on the art of Caravaggio, subject of forthcoming show at Metropolitan Museum of Art; says show will reveal Caravaggio as consummate painter, the complete master of his craft whose every touch directs technique to realization of convincing art; photos (L), P 3, VI.39.2

John Russell reviews exhibition The Age of Caravaggio at the Metropolitan Museum of Art; photo. P 8 II.1 1
P.A.S.L. (Periodicals and Serials List)

P.A.S.L. is a computer printout listing all periodicals and serials owned by Atkins Library. Look here to see if the library has the periodical you need.

There are two versions of P.A.S.L. The large blue covered P.A.S.L. was last printed in the spring of 1990. It will never be updated. It is easier to understand than the new green covered version and is also more complete. The green version will be updated and has titles and cataloging information for titles which have been recently added to the library’s collection. Start with the blue one.

Periodicals are listed alphabetically by title or by issuing organization. Each entry gives information on the volumes and years of a journal owned by the library, the format in which it appears, and the call number. P.A.S.L. copies are located on the first floor near the indexes and also on the 2nd in the periodicals collection area.

Periodicals are also listed in ALADDIN, but it is quite complicated to use. If you can’t find your title in any of these three sources--Atkins Library does not own it.

Example:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>title</th>
<th>format</th>
<th>CURR/BD PER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

CURR: CURRENT year issues of the periodical

BD PER: Older issues which are in BOUND PERIODICAL format

Current and bound periodicals are shelved together by their call numbers on the 2nd floor of Old Atkins (behind where the reserve desk used to be). See the library map--available at the reference desk

MIC: MICROFICHE or MICROFILM volumes of a periodical. These are arranged by call number in metal cabinets in the periodicals collection area on the second floor (see map).