

Art Criticism Library Session STL 18

Be prepared to demonstrate one or two successful database searches that resulted in articles that you were able to use for your class project. You may choose to demonstrate and compare searches from two different databases, if you wish.

I. Search at least two of the following three databases for articles about your artist:
Art Abstracts; BHA (Bibliography of the History of Art); and Proquest

A. Be aware of the different types of publications indexed in the databases:
scholarly art journals, monthly art magazines, general popular magazines,
major daily newspapers, and books.

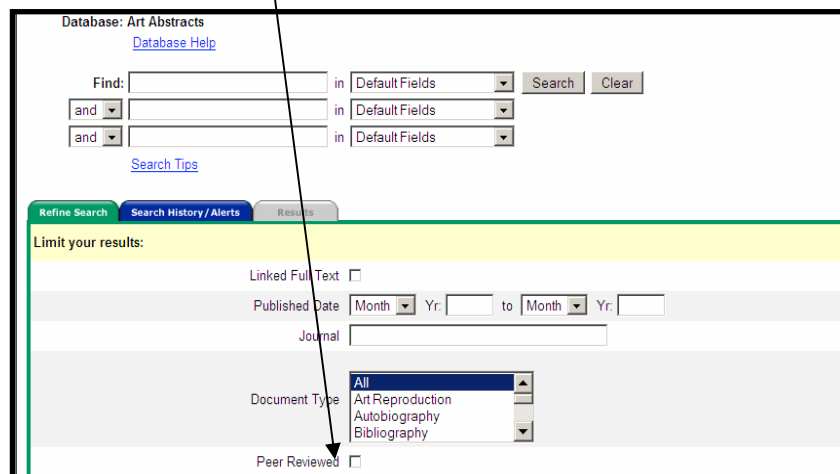
1. **Articles from scholarly art journals.** Scholarly art journals are published or sponsored by a scholarly society or organization. Here are three examples of scholarly art journals:

Art Bulletin: This quarterly was established in 1913 to publish original scholarly research in all areas of the history of art and architecture. The College Art Association publishes the Art Bulletin, and it is indexed in both Art Abstracts and in BHA.

Art Journal: Published since 1941, this quarterly is devoted to 20th and 21st century art and visual culture. The College Art Association publishes the Art Journal, and it is indexed in both Art Abstracts and in BHA.

Art History: Art History is published by the Association of Art Historians. The journal publishes articles on all aspects, areas, and periods of art history. Art History has an international reputation for contemporary scholarship and enquiry. It is indexed in both Art Abstracts and BHA.

*Hint: To limit your Art Abstracts searches to scholarly journals, simply click the “peer reviewed” box in the *Limit Your Results* section of the search screen.



The screenshot shows the search interface for Art Abstracts. At the top, it says "Database: Art Abstracts" with a link to "Database Help". Below that is a search bar with "Find:" followed by three input fields and "in Default Fields" dropdowns, with "Search" and "Clear" buttons. Below the search bar is a "Search Tips" link. The "Limit your results:" section is highlighted in yellow and contains several options: "Linked Full Text" with an unchecked checkbox, "Published Date" with "Month" and "Yr." dropdowns and input fields, "Journal" with an input field, "Document Type" with a dropdown menu showing "All", "Art Reproduction", "Autobiography", and "Bibliography", and "Peer Reviewed" with an unchecked checkbox. A black arrow points from the text above to the "Peer Reviewed" checkbox.

2. **Articles from monthly art magazines.** Monthly art magazines, such as Art in America, Artforum International, and Art News reports news, notes, and reviews from the art world. Major monthly art magazines are indexed in both Art Abstracts and in BHA.
 3. **Books and book chapters.** In addition to indexing art magazines and journals, the BHA database indexes art books.
 4. **General popular magazines.** The Proquest database indexes a great number of popular magazines that are not exclusively arts related. Examples of general popular magazines that might include articles about arts related topics are: the New Yorker, the Smithsonian, and Interview.
 5. **Major Newspapers.** Proquest indexes major daily newspapers, such as The New York Times, The Los Angeles Times, The Boston Globe, and the San Francisco Chronicle. These newspapers are sources for exhibition reviews and artists' interviews.
- B. Try different search strategies in Art Abstracts, BHA and Proquest.
- Try searching for your artist as a SUBJECT (invert the artist's name and change the field box from "default field" to "subject," i.e. *Hesse, Eva in SU Subject*)
 - Try narrowing your search by combining additional search terms to your artist's name. You can add the name of a particular work, media, genre, theme, or exhibition. You could add the name of a related artist.

Examples: Joel Peter Witkin AND Death; Bill Viola AND Passions;
Laurie Anderson AND technology; Chuck Close AND Portraits

- C. Study the list of articles that result from your searches. Read article abstracts in order to gather ideas about your topic. The abstracts often identify specific artworks, themes exhibitions, and related artists. The abstract will also provide enough content information to allow you to decide if you want to access the full-text or hard copy of the article. Try to find a variety of sources: scholarly criticism and interpretation, biographical information about the artist, interviews with the artist, and exhibition reviews.
- D. Once you have identified useful articles, try using SFX and Serials Solutions to link to the full-text. If the article is not available in full-text, or if you wish to view color reproductions of artwork in the article, check the Library Catalog to attempt to locate a print copy of the article. If the article is not available in full-text or in hard copy, make an ILLiad Interlibrary Loan request.
- II. For your class demonstration:
- Talk about the types of articles that appear in your result lists. What types of Publications do the articles appear in? scholarly, monthly art magazines, popular magazines, newspaper? What type of content is included? history, criticism, news, reviews?
 - Tell how you came to modify or refine your search strategy, after reading abstracts or articles.
 - Briefly describe one or two articles from the list that you read.