ART101ProQuest

Hello, I'm Jordan Andrade, an Ashford University Librarian. Today, I'm going to show you how to search ProQuest visual and performing arts related content for scholarly sources in art history. Let's head over to ProQuest, which we'll access through the library.

To get to the library, click on the library link located on the left hand side of your classroom. On the next screen, click the Library button. The library will open in a new window. To locate ProQuest visual and performing arts, go to Find Articles and More and select Databases by subject. From the list of subject areas, you'll choose the Visual and Performing Arts link. And under the Visual and Performing Arts heading, you'll go down to ProQuest visual and performing arts related content.

Now before you search ProQuest, you'll want to think about your assignment and consider the key concepts you would like the database to search for. These concepts are also referred to as keywords. In my example, I'm going to explore the movement Cubism and see what I can find on its history. Before I click Search, I want to make sure that the database is set to perform the exact search I would like. So this means checking some of the databases filters.

Databases are constructed with lots of different search options to help you narrow your search down. So the first thing I want to do is, here, where you see anywhere except full text, I'm going to go ahead and change this to document text so that the database searches only within the text of the article for Cubism in history. Also I want to make sure that full text is checked. And because the assignment calls for scholarly resources, I'm going to go ahead and check scholarly journals.

Additionally, I'm going to scroll down the page a bit. And here underneath document text, I'm going to go ahead and check article. And something that you may also want to do is under Language, check English. You may get a lot of articles in other languages. So now that I have everything set the way I want it to, I'm going to go ahead and click Search and see what the database retrieves. So now that I've clicked Search, I see that the database has retrieved 870 results.

Now, it's really a manageable number of results considering that one search can often get thousands of articles. Now, don't worry about the total number of results, because you won't have to go through all of them. More often than not, you won't have to look beyond the second page of results for articles which will work for your assignment. Once you have your results page up, what you want to do is take a look, go through the results. With the critical eye, take a look at the titles. You'll also want to review these small segments, which have been removed from the article itself, and see if there's something that works for you here.

I like this one here, Analyzing Artistic Innovation, The Greatest Breakthroughs of the 20th Century. I see that it's talking about Cubism and it's also talking about its history a little bit here. So I'm going to go ahead and check this one out. What I'm going to do is I'm going to click Full text PDF. And the full text of the article is brought up.

One of the things you'll notice here is you have the articles abstract, and it's always a good idea to read the abstract of the article to make sure that it's something that really works for you. And if you find that it does, you can go ahead and click the download button here. You can download the article to your laptop. There's also the option for printing. So if you want to print the article out.

And also, ProQuest offers an email option so you can email the article to yourself. As you get more familiar with ProQuest, it'll be easier to use. Explore ProQuest and see if you can find articles which examine people, movements, and works. If you ever have any questions, please contact the library. And good luck on your research.