

ART101JSTOR

Hello. I am Jordan [INAUDIBLE], an Ashford University librarian. Today, I'm going to show you how JSTOR, which is a great database to find scholarly sources for art history research. Let's head over to JSTOR, 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 JSTOR, go to Find Articles and More, and then select Databases by Subject. From the list of subject areas, you will choose the Visual and Performing Arts Link under the Visual and Performing Arts heading, click JSTOR.

Before you start searching, 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 will explore the movement Cubism and see what I can find on Pablo Picasso's work Guernica.

Now, before I click Search, I want to make sure the database is set to perform the exact search I would like for it to perform. You see, databases are constructed with lots of different search options to help you narrow your search down. For example, you'll notice I left the search box set to Full Text. Clicking this carrot reveals other options that I can choose from-- author, item title, abstract, and caption. Additionally, scrolling down the page a bit, I'll limit our search under Narrow By to Articles.

We only want to view full-text articles for this assignment. Additionally, you don't have to, but you may want to limit your language to English. The art and art history disciplines are full of scholars from all over the world often writing about movements and works in their native language. And those countries may even be where the work and/or movement occurred. So checking English will limit your results to English texts only.

Finally, JSTOR allows us to filter our search by discipline or journal. Scrolling down the page under Filter by Journal, I'll check Art and Art History for which there are 170 titles to search for. Once I've selected art and art history, I'm going to go ahead and click Search and see what the database retrieves. After clicking Search, I see that JSTOR has retrieved 118 search results. This, in fact, is a really manageable number of results, as you can often get thousands of articles in one search.

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. If you find that your results were for you, that's great. If not, you may want to consider looking for another work within your selected movement maybe search for the artist rather than a particular work.

Additionally, you may want to consider some of the topic words provided by the database. Ask yourself, are there more keywords that I can consider for my search? Now, once you found a

search that works for you, go ahead and examine your search results. Find an article that you think is going to work for the assignment.

So I really like this one here-- "Picasso's Guernica, in its Historical Context." Once you find an article you feel is going to work, go ahead and click Download PDF. Once the article loads from the database, you can click Download and download the article to your computer.

Additionally, you can also print the article out, and then you're set to go. As you get more familiar with JSTOR, you'll find that it's easier to use. But if you ever have any questions, please contact the library. And good luck on your research.