



## A Selection of Recommended Web Sites for Research and/or Teaching

### Fine Arts December 2010

- Archives of American Art: the Smithsonian Institution <http://www.aaa.si.edu/>

These archives, developed over 50 years, comprise the largest and most widely-used resource on the history of the visual arts in America. The *Collections Online* portion of the *Archives* is a selection, often of significant scholarly importance, of the roughly 16 million letters, photographs, diaries, oral history interviews, sketches, scrapbooks, business records, and other documents that make up the *Archives*. In addition to browsing, all words in *Collections Online* are indexed and can be searched using the search box in the upper right corner of the site.

- Art History Resources on the Web, by Christopher Witcombe <http://witcombe.sbc.edu/ARTHLinks.html>

This valuable gateway to online resources for worldwide art history has been created by a professor of art history at Sweet Briar College. The directory is well-organized and maintained.

- Art Images for College Teaching (AICT), by Allan T. Kohl <http://arthist.cla.umn.edu/aict/html/index.html>

A non-profit project of its author, an art historian, AICT is intended primarily to “disseminate images of art and architectural works in the public domain on a free-access, free-use basis to all levels of the educational community, as well as to the public at large.” The emphasis is on ancient, medieval, and European Renaissance art and architecture.

- The Getty <http://www.getty.edu/>

Among the many online research tools which the J. Paul Getty Trust offers on this site, particularly outstanding are the following: the Research Library catalog under the Research Institute tab; the Explore Art section under the Museum tab, which allows users to browse through works on display at the Getty Center or the Getty Villa by artist, type of art, theme or topic, as well as view the Video Gallery, videos about the collection, exhibitions, conservation strategies, practices. Note that RealPlayer is necessary for viewing the videos. The *Bibliography of the History of Art* (BHA) and the *Répertoire de la littérature de l'art* (RILA) are also useful resources available through this site.

- Great Buildings Online <http://www.greatbuildings.com/>

This site is a gateway to architecture around the world and across history. It focuses on 1000 notable buildings and hundreds of famous architects. Included are photographic images and architectural drawings, integrated maps and timelines, 3D building models, commentaries, bibliographies, and web links. The site is extensively cross-referenced with two other sites: *ArchitectureWeek*, a leading online architecture journal, and *Archiplanet*, a volunteer-created online worldwide collection of buildings.

- Making Sense of Modern Art [http://www.sfmoma.org/multimedia/interactive\\_features/3](http://www.sfmoma.org/multimedia/interactive_features/3)

The San Francisco's Museum of Modern Art has produced this extensive online multimedia guide to modern art, treating individual works in the permanent collection as case studies illustrating significant movements, themes, and styles.

- Metropolitan Museum of Art <http://www.metmuseum.org/home.asp>

The site is particularly notable for two features. *The Heilbrunn Timeline of Art History* is a valuable chronological, geographical, and thematic tool for exploring art history through the collection. Its coverage extends from 20,000 B.C. to the present day. The WATSONLINE catalog is the online catalog for the Museum's 26 libraries, providing access to bibliographic records for 690,000 volumes, including 14,000 serial titles, 125,000 auction catalogues, and 28,000 vertical files.

- Motley Collection of Theatre & Costume Design <http://images.library.uiuc.edu/projects/motley>

This is an easy-to-use site featuring a rare collection of materials from more than 150 notable productions in England and in the United States for which the Motley Group (Margaret Harris, her sister Sophia Harris and Elizabeth Montgomery) designed innovative sets and costumes. The materials available online include costume and set designs, sketches, notes, photographs, prop lists, and storyboards. Browsing and searching are both supported. For those interested in the history of theatre and design, this is a valuable resource sponsored by the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

- The NYPL Digital Gallery <http://digitalgallery.nypl.org/nypldigital/index.cfm>

*The Digital Gallery* is the New York Public Library's image database. It offers "free and open online access to hundreds of thousands of images" digitized from the Library's collections, including illuminated manuscripts, historical maps, vintage posters, photographs, and rare prints. Since the collections include materials in the public domain as well as materials that are subject to copyright restrictions, users are advised to read the Library's Terms and Conditions before using any of the images.

- WorldImages Kiosk <http://worldart.sjsu.edu/>

This is a database that provides access to the California State College IMAGE Project. It consists of approximately 80,000 images which are global in scope and cover all areas of visual imagery. The images are organized into various portfolios, which are then further organized by subjects. The *WorldImages Art and Architecture Portfolios* are notable. Tips are provided for systematic searching. Users are free to use the images for non-profit educational purposes, as long as credit is given to the copyright holders of the images.

## Music

- Global Performing Arts Database (GloPAD) <http://www.glopad.org>

GloPAD is a free-access, multilingual performing arts database made possible by a collaboration of U.S. and Asian universities, museums/libraries, and performing arts organizations. Database records offer authoritative descriptions of digital images, texts, sound recordings, video clips, three-dimensional models, and other material. Simple keyword searching is supported, and search results include thumbnail images of the digital objects retrieved. Many of the digital objects may be freely used for educational purposes as long as database-supplied credit information is referenced.

- The Hiphop Archive <http://www.hiphoparchive.org>

According to its mission page, this archive "organizes and develops collections, initiates and participates in research activities, sponsors events and acquires material culture associated with Hiphop in the U.S. and throughout the world." The major sections of the site include the following: Hiphop University (research resource for academia), Hiphop LX (the language system), the Circle Blog (news, music, art, and politics), Prepare Yourself (an introduction to hiphop), Media & Tech (multimedia resources) and HHA Harvard (about the Hiphop Archive at its home in Harvard's W.E.B. DuBois Institute for African American Research).

- OperaGlass, by Rick Bogart. <http://opera.stanford.edu>

While the format of this online opera resource looks like that of early HTML sites and it isn't updated very often, the site has been in existence for about a decade, and still has much to offer, particular to students who are new to opera. The information is organized in lists of primarily internal site links, providing full libretti, synopses, source texts, performance histories, discographies of many operas, plus indices of opera composers/librettists. Among the added features is a section entitled "Una Voce...", a list of operas requiring six or fewer singers and "Opera for Everyone," which allows users to freely access and download digital versions of a series of CDs focusing on four major operas: *The Barber of Seville*, *La Traviata*, *Carmen*, and *Madame Butterfly*.

- Smithsonian Folkways <http://www.folkways.si.edu>

Smithsonian Folkways Recordings is the nonprofit record label of the Smithsonian Institution. This site offers liner notes and audio samples from all musical and spoken word recordings issued by Folkways since it was founded in 1948 to document "'people's music,' spoken word, instruction, and sounds from around the world." Video ethnographies, supplemental podcasts, Folkways Radio, issues of the online *Folkways Magazine*, and links to teaching resources are also available.

- Web Resources for American Art, by Jeffrey Weidman  
[http://ahaaonline.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=856&Itemid=92](http://ahaaonline.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=856&Itemid=92)

Weidman, a Senior Librarian with the Spencer Art Reference Library at The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art in Kansas City, Missouri, in collaboration with the Association of Historians of American Art, has created a large database of worthwhile web resources for over 300 subject categories.

- WWW Sites of Interest to Musicologists <http://www.ams-net.org/www-musicology.php>

Sponsored by the American Musicological Society, this is a portal to many useful sites. It is organized into various categories such as Composers and Composition, Music Education, Music in Latin America, Music by Women, Jazz, Rock and Pop, Opera and Song. Note that some of the pages are limited to society members only.

## Film and Television

- Archive of American Television, from the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences Foundation  
<http://emmytvlegends.org>

Since 1997 when it was founded, this *Archive* has been video-recording one-on-one formal, lengthy interviews with television pioneers and other professionals who have made significant contributions to the industry. Hundreds of these interviews have been digitized, embedded into the site from *YouTube*, and are available for free viewing online. The videos are indexed.

- American Film Institute <http://www.afi.com/>

Among the goals of the AFI is to preserve the legacy of American film, educate the next generation of filmmakers, and honor the artists and their work. On this site, AFI supports these goals by offering online resources such as the AFI Catalog of Feature Films, which provides both comprehensive and detailed coverage of every feature-length film produced in the United States or financed by American production companies, as well as hundreds of videos, including interviews, seminars, and shorts. AFI also provides lists celebrating various aspects of excellence in American film, e.g. "AFI's 10 Greatest Films in 10 Classic Genres" and "AFI's Greatest Movie Musicals." Film details, video commentaries, and trailers are presented for each movie on the lists.

- Europa Film Treasures <http://www.europafilmtreasures.eu/>

This is a treasure trove of European films of all types and all lengths. The site is easily navigated and searched. Each film entry includes information about the film and its history. These works may be streamed for online viewing by anyone with a high-bandwidth connection, but not downloaded. Films are authorized only for private, non-commercial showings. Users “must contact the film library or archive concerned directly to negotiate a public showing even in a non-commercial context like in a school....” Also, faculty should note that erotic films are also showcased. Primarily useful for film, arts and history faculty.

- Folkstreams.net: The Best of American Folklore Films <http://www.folkstreams.net>

This site provides free streaming video access to hard-to-find documentary films about American folk culture. Many of the documentaries are linked to significant published research such as articles on related topics.

- Silent Era, by Carl Bennett <http://www.silentera.com>

This web site is a collection of news, reviews, articles, lists and other information that can be difficult to find about silent films released between 1888 and 1929. Google is embedded as the tool for searching the entire site. Note that while the ads on the site are subject appropriate, they are a bit distracting amid the very busy format of the home page.