



## Finding references

There are a number of **electronic search engines** available to help you find research references. First, most libraries' OPACs (Online Public Access Catalogue) will allow you search for whole publications (books, exhibition catalogues, videos, DVDs etc.) on a given subject using keyword searches. Try searching PSC's OPAC for photography resources. Some OPACs, such as the National Library of Australia's 'Trove', also cover historical newspaper articles, image databases, websites, and more. Second, **Google Books** will help you find many books and book chapters, some full-view, some preview, some snippet view, and some no preview. While access to texts may be limited, it can help identify material that you can obtain elsewhere. Third, to find journal article references you can search a **bibliographic database**, such as the Bibliography of the History of Art or Wilson Art Index, or a journal database, such as Art & Architecture (EBSCO) or Arts & Sciences (JSTOR). Make sure to check the 'Databases' link on PSC's Digital Hub page for access to PSC's subscribed databases.



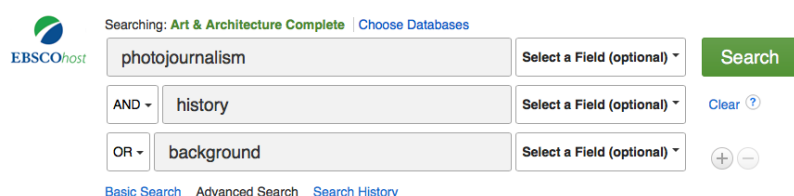
## Keyword searching

Most search engines offer a simple search and an advanced search, the latter providing various filtering options. In either case, the terms you put into the search engine can help determine the scope of the results obtained. Many search engines will allow you to add 'Boolean' operators to your keywords:

**AND:** putting AND between two keywords will direct the search engine to find references that include both keywords.

**OR:** putting OR between two keywords will direct the search engine to find references with either of the keywords.

**NOT:** putting NOT between two keywords will direct the search engine to find references containing the first keyword and to exclude references containing the second keyword.



EBSCOhost Searching: Art & Architecture Complete | Choose Databases

photojournalism Select a Field (optional) Search

AND - history Select a Field (optional) Clear ?

OR - background Select a Field (optional) + -

Basic Search Advanced Search Search History

## Evaluating the quality of sources

Some search engines allow results to be filtered for peer-reviewed journal articles. This should mean that the articles have been independently assessed and accepted by scholars in the field. This is a widely recognized means of identifying quality research publications. However, non-peer reviewed articles may be of similar or even better quality, depending on the quality of the editorial. Alternative ways to identify quality references are to establish whether they have been cited in other reputable publications whether the editorial has a sound reputation, is affiliated with a reputable institution, or works with reputable authors.

## Engaging critically with texts

A research reference can be critiqued in isolation, by examining a text for inconsistencies, contradictions, omissions, incomplete or flawed evidence, and incorrect or overly speculative interpretation of evidence. Alternatively, references can be compared to see how they disagree with one another. Criticism of research references allows an authorial voice to emerge clearly, and can contribute to advances in a field.

## Citations

Citation is essential in any academic environment, including Photography Studies College. There are numerous ways to cite references, depending on the context. At Photography Studies College a Citation Guide based on the Harvard referencing style has been provided, setting out commonly encountered forms of citations in a recommended 'author-date' style. The important thing is to acknowledge any significant concept, phrase, image, argument, or idea that is not one's own. This should be done in the part of the text in which the reference is used—as an in-text citation, footnote, or endnote—as well as in the bibliography. If a source is used in an image, the reference can be acknowledged in the caption.