

---

# Thomas J. Watson Library

## Research Guide

---

### Researching Met History

---

This resource can be used to find print and online publications about the history of The Met.

#### Thomas J. Watson Library

The Met Fifth Avenue  
1000 Fifth Avenue  
New York, NY 10028

212-650-2442

For current Library hours visit  
us at [metmuseum.org/watson](http://metmuseum.org/watson)

The Metropolitan Museum of Art was originally founded in 1870 in a charter that called for a “museum and library of art.”\* Today, the Museum includes the main building on Fifth Avenue, as well as The Cloisters, which displays art from Medieval Europe. The Met Breuer, which highlighted modern and contemporary art, was open from 2016-2020.

For a brief overview of the history of The Met, begin your research on the Museum’s website:

<http://www.metmuseum.org/about-the-met>.

Press releases, news and announcements dating from 1991 to the present can be found here:

<http://www.metmuseum.org/press>.

\*New York (State), ‘An act to incorporate ‘The Metropolitan Museum of Art,’ passed April 13th, 1870,” Metropolitan Museum of Art, 1870.

<http://libmma.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/ref/collection/p15324-coll10/id/197410>

#### Searching Watsonline Using Subject Headings

Throughout this guide, you will notice boxes labeled “Suggested Searches: Find Other Resources in [Watsonline](#). The links within these boxes will help you do conduct searches of the library’s holdings using subject headings.

What’s the difference between keyword and subject searching? When you search by keyword, you are searching the whole catalogue entry for the book—so if the word you are searching appears in the author, title, or any part of the description, that book will appear in your results list. Subject headings are assigned to each book by library staff to make it easier to find books that are related. This is a great way to find books on your specific subject, but it’s important that you use the correct formatting for the subject heading—otherwise you will not get any results. This is why we recommend that you start by searching broadly with keywords, and then find specific subject headings that relate to your topic.

#### The Met Fifth Avenue

#### Books

[Danziger, Danny. 2007. \*Museum: behind the scenes at the Metropolitan Museum of Art\*. New York, N.Y.: Viking.](#)

[Houghton, James R. 2009. \*Philippe de Montebello and the Metropolitan Museum of Art, 1977-2008\*. New York: Metropolitan Museum of Art.](#)

[Howe, Winifred E., and Henry Watson Kent. 1913. \*A history of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, with a chapter on the early institutions of art in New York\*. New York: \[Printed at the Gilliss Press\].](#)

---

[Metropolitan Museum of Art \(New York, N.Y.\), Katharine Baetjer, Philippe De Montebello, and Emily K. Rafferty. 2007. \*The Metropolitan Museum of Art\*. New York: The Metropolitan Museum of Art.](#)  
[Tomkins, Calvin. 1970. \*Merchants and masterpieces: the story of the Metropolitan Museum of Art\*. New York: E.P.Dutton.](#)

### **Journal Articles**

[Heckscher, Morrison. "Creating Central Park": \*The Metropolitan Museum of Art Bulletin\*, v. 65, no. 3 \(Winter, 2008\).](#)  
[Heckscher, Morrison. "The Metropolitan Museum of Art: An Architectural History": \*The Metropolitan Museum of Art Bulletin\*, v. 53, no. 1 \(Summer, 1995\).](#)  
[Mayor, A. Hyatt. "The Met from the Inside": \*The Metropolitan Museum of Art Bulletin\*, v. 24, no. 1 \(Summer, 1965\).](#)

### **Suggested Searches: Find Other Resources in Watsonline**

[Metropolitan Museum of Art — History](#)  
[Metropolitan Museum of Art — Buildings](#)  
The Met: 1000 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10028

### **The Cloisters**

#### **Books**

[Barnet, Peter, and Nancy Y. Wu. 2005. \*The Cloisters: medieval art and architecture\*. New York: Metropolitan Museum of Art.](#)  
[Parker, Elizabeth C., and Mary B. Shepard. 1992. \*The Cloisters: studies in honor of the fiftieth anniversary\*. New York: Metropolitan Museum of Art.](#)  
[Rorimer, James J., and Katherine Serrell Rorimer. 1972. \*Medieval monuments at the Cloisters as they were and as they are\*.](#)

#### **Journal Articles**

[Husband, Timothy. "Creating the Cloisters": \*The Metropolitan Museum of Art Bulletin\*, v. 70, no. 4 \(Spring, 2013\).](#)  
[Leuchak, Mary Rebecca. "'Old World for the New': Developing the Design for the Cloisters." \*The Metropolitan Museum Journal\* 23 \(1988\): 257-277.](#)  
[Schrader, J. L. "George Grey Barnard: The Cloisters and The Abbaye." \*The Metropolitan Museum of Art Bulletin\* 37, no. 1 \(Summer, 1979\): 1-52.](#)

### **Suggested Searches: Find Other Resources in Watsonline**

[Cloisters Museum](#)  
[Cloisters Museum — History](#)  
[Cloisters Museum — Buildings](#)  
The Cloisters: 99 Margaret Corbin Drive, Fort Tryon Park, New York, NY 10040

### **The Met Breuer**

#### **Books**

[Biddle, Flora Miller. 1999. \*The Whitney women and the museum they made: a family memoir\*. New York: Arcade.](#)  
[Olsberg, R. Nicholas. 1996. \*Breuer's Whitney: an anniversary exhibition, September 11-December 8, 1996\*. New York, NY: Whitney Museum of American Art.](#)

---

## Suggested Searches: Find Other Resources in Watsonline

[Breuer, Marcel](#)

[Whitney Museum of American Art](#)

Met Breuer: Formerly at 945 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10021

## Watson Library Digital Collections

Click here to access [Watson Library Digital Collections](#).

**This resource can be accessed from any computer with an Internet connection.**

Watson Library Digital Collections provides online access to some Museum publications, including the original charters, constitutions and bylaws related to the founding of the Museum, as well as press releases dating back to 1940, and images of the Museum's architecture, and permanent and special exhibition gallery views.

## Historical New York Times Database

Click [here](#) to access this resource. This database is a subscription resource, and may be accessed onsite at the Museum by any researcher, or from home by any Museum staff member or volunteer.

This database provides access to a fully searchable digitized image of every page The New York Times from its first issue on Sept 18, 1851 through Dec 31 2009. It provides digitized historical New York Times articles in downloadable PDF files.

## Google News Aggregator

Click here to access the [Google News Aggregator](#). This resource can be accessed from any computer with an Internet connection.

## Have a question?

Reach a reference librarian at [watson.library@metmuseum.org](mailto:watson.library@metmuseum.org) or use our virtual chat service, Ask a Librarian, Monday-Friday, 10am-5pm.

*Last updated 12/2020*