BHA: Bibliography of the History of Art

BHA provides indexes and abstracts for art-related books in addition to conference proceedings, exhibition and dealers’ catalogs and articles from more than 4,300 periodicals covering a range of topics including architecture, art of Europe and the Americas, decorative arts and much, much more. Produced by the J. Paul Getty Trust, BHA is a comprehensive database for art historians.

Searching

BHA is provided by OCLC/First Search, so you will notice the interface is very similar to that of WorldCat.

In addition to searching multiple terms and fields at one time, you can also limit your search to date, language or availability.
Search Tips

You can use Boolean operators to limit your search either in the Advanced Search tab using the drop down choices or by creating a search string in the Expert Search field.

- **AND**: all terms in the search appear in the results
- **OR**: at least one term in the search appears in the results
- **NOT**: excludes terms from the search
- **()**: groups words and phrases to show a relationship and the order in which you would like the search to be performed
- **W#** (with): searches for terms in the order listed in an article with no more than the number searched between them
- **N#** (near): searches for terms in any order listed in an article with no more than the number searched between them

Phrase searching is useful when searching for an exact phrase. If you are looking for articles about modern, you can put “modern art” in quotation marks to ensure the phrase is searched and not just the combination of the terms in any location in the article.

Wildcards allow you to search for multiple terms at one time. There is a variety offered by BHA.

- The plus sign (+) allows you to search for a word and its plural.
- The asterisk (*) represents any number of characters including no characters at all at the end of a word. This is often referred to as truncation. There must be at least three letters preceding the asterisk
  
  *environment* matches:
  environment
  environments
  environmental

- The pound sign (#) represents any single character.
  *wom#n* matches:
  woman
  women

- The question mark (?) represents from zero to nine additional characters. You can include a specific number after the question mark to indicate the maximum number of characters to replace.
  *colo?r* matches:
  color
  colour
  colonizer
  *while* *colo?1r* matches:
  color
  colour

Take care when using wildcards as you may not want to use one with all searches.

If nesting is not used, BHA will process AND, OR or NOT in left to right order.
Search Results

Once you have run your search, you will be taken to a list of results.

Available at Briggs Library.

If Briggs Library has access to the article, in either print or electronic versions you will see a green highlighted indicator.

If you click on the title of the article, you will be taken to a full record that will allow you to request the article through ILL. Sometimes BHA doesn’t always list the publications we receive at the library. Once you’ve clicked on the “Find It” tab, make sure to check the Summon holdings. You may find there is either a print or electronic subscription available.