



Dance Appreciation: An overview of dance

Dance Appreciation brings an overview of dance from the history of dance developments and movements in visual arts and music.

Distilling the idea down into research steps:

- [1] First, define the question: What is your dance topic? (Modern dance? African dance? Ballet?)
- [2] Next, setting about, *finding information* relevant to your dance topic: books, articles, videos, etc.
- [3] Using the books, articles, videos, etc, as raw materials for your dance paper and presentation.
- [4] Last but not least: writing the paper and tying it all together.

SEARCH TERMS: GETTING THE MOST FROM THE LIBRARY CATALOG & DATABASES

- How do you search for library materials to match your research needs? Start with your dance topic.
- Useful subject search terms (examples): “Dance”, “Dancers”, “Dance history”, “Ballet”, “Choreography”.
- Useful keywords: “classical dance”, “second generation dance”, “dance and musicals”

LIBRARY’S QUICKSEARCH BOX (easy one-stop search start):

www.winthrop.edu/dacus → Search box leads to results and an overview. More like a web search.
 → type in “dance” or “choreography” → see many hits and choices for more specific materials:
 → narrow search results down by format (books, videos / DVDs, etc) on the left side of the screen, or
 → narrow further by topic on the right side of the screen, or
 → jump into five basic databases (top right). **Also:** See the best Dance databases at the end of this page.

CLASSIC LIBRARY CATALOG (some powerful unique search tools):

Your goal is to find a manageable number of useful books and articles. Narrowing with “and”, broadening with “or” works in the databases. Also works in the Classic library catalog, but not in Quicksearch.

1. To find fewer: narrow the search with “and”
 2. To find more: broaden the search with “or”
- Example keyword search: “Modern and dance*” or “Martha Graham OR modern danc**”.

*: This wildcard symbol broadens the search when appropriate results could be based on unforeseen variants of concept words: Danc** retrieves “dance”, “dancing”, “dances”, “dancers”, etc.

SOME BOOKS FOR STARTERS:

1. *A core collection in dance* / Mary E. Edsall, editor. Reference GV1594.B1 .C67 2001
2. *Culture and customs of...* (each country has a separate title. Includes dances).
3. *Fifty contemporary choreographers*. Reference GV1785.A1 .B74 1999
4. *Hip hop dance : meanings and messages*. General Collection GV1796.H57 .H86 2007
5. *International encyclopedia of dance* (in 3 volumes). Reference; GV1585 .I586 1998
6. *The Oxford dictionary of dance* / Debra Craine, Judith Mackrell; Reference; GV1585 .C78 2000

FINDING MORE BOOKS & VIDEOS:

- 1 From Dacus Library home-page, go to: Go to “Dacus Online Catalog”,
- 2 Search by subject (example): “dance”
- 3 Search by keyword: (example): “danc**” – You can also limit searches by “books”, videos, DVDs, etc.
- 4 Search for dance journals by keyword “danc**” and limit by periodicals in Advanced Search.

SOME DATABASES (for starters) FOR DANCE

1. *Art Index* (type subject search for “dance”, “modern dance”, and any other topics related to your project)
2. *Biography Resource Center* (dancers’ & choreographers’ biographies): click “advanced search” → set tab to keyword
3. *Credo Reference* (database of scholarly encyclopedias) → type in e.g. dance → see biographies, history, etc
4. *Physical Education Index* (dance / body conditioning & movement)
5. SIRS Researcher (type subject search for “dance”, “modern dance”, and any other topics related to your project)
6. General topics: *Academic Search Premier*, *Academic OneFile* (mix of various academic subjects)

NEW LIBRARY ADDITIONS FOR DANCE

From Library website at www.winthrop.edu/dacus :

- → “Dacus Online Catalog”
- → “Helpful Lists”
- → “New Books List”
- → Pick a year (for example, “current year” or
 - → click “Dance” for a list of new books and videos added that year

FINDING JOURNALS, E-JOURNALS, AND DATABASES:

CURRENT JOURNALS:

From Library website at www.winthrop.edu/dacus :

- → “Dacus Online Catalog”
- → “Helpful Lists”
- → “Current Journals by Subject”
- → Under “Visual and Performing Arts”
 - → click “Theatre and Dance” for current journal issues on the library’s current shelves

E-JOURNALS:

From Library website at www.winthrop.edu/dacus :

- → “E-Journals List”
- → Select “Music, Dance, Drama & Film” from Subject pulldown menu:
 - → Click on “Dance” for e-journals list

FINDING DATABASES FOR DANCE ARTICLES:

From Library website:

- “Databases”
- choose “Dance”

MORE DANCE-RELATED LIBRARY RESOURCES:

From Library website at www.winthrop.edu/dacus:

- → “Research Guides / Tutorials”
- → Under “Visual and Performing Arts”
 - → click “Dance” for more Dance resources.

USEFUL TIPS:

E-MAILING SEARCH RESULTS TO YOURSELF:

Dacus Library Catalog – from search-result list of books, videos etc:

1. Click on “Save Record” on each title of interest.
2. Click on “View Saved” → Click “Export Saved”
3. Move cursor into e-mail box and fill in your full e-mail address, e.g. **must type** @winthrop.edu
4. Subject is automatically set to “From the library catalog”. Type in new subject if needed.
5. Click on “submit” → e-mail is then sent
6. Clear marked records after e-mailing to yourself

ACCESS FROM ANYWHERE ON CAMPUS AND FROM OFF-CAMPUS:

- Dacus Library’s Online Catalog, databases, and research tools are available from anywhere on campus (other academic buildings, dorm rooms, etc).
- For Winthrop students and faculty, the online resources can be accessed from anywhere off campus, with login. Type in your last name and Winthrop ID# and the databases will look and “feel” the same as on campus.

To browse Library areas with more Dance-related books (materials are shelved by LC call number):

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|--|--|--|
| G | M | N |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• GR – Folklore, only when it includes actors' biography• GT – costume design• GV1199 - GV9999 – Dance | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ML141 – Musical productions• ML1571 - ML1711 – Opera• MT955 – Production and direction of musicals | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• NX180 – Performing arts & body |
| | | P |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• PN1560 - PN1590 – Performing arts |

What kind of information is published where?

- Definitions** (found in encyclopedias, dictionaries, handbooks) – found in library catalog because they're books.
- News & general summary information** (found in newspaper and news-magazine articles) – articles are located with index databases. Some news articles are full-text, but not all.
- Scholarly analysis** (found in books and journal articles) – Books are found in library catalog; journals are located in the library catalog after locating the articles using databases.
- Articles about specific subjects** – “Databases by Subject” for the best databases for each area of study.
- History of a given topic** (found in journal articles and books) – Books are found searching the library catalog. Articles (some full-text) are found in databases; print journals are listed in the library catalog. JSTOR is scholarly full-text journal article database.
- Special-interest approaches to a given topic** (found in magazines, organizational newsletters, web-sites).
- Opinions** (found in newspaper and magazine editorials, books, and web sites published by special-interest groups).

Journals vs. Magazines

Journals: Scholarly

- Are published to disseminate information and are very subject specific
- Usually published monthly or quarterly
- Articles are footnoted and have bibliographies
- Examples: Journal of the American Medical Association, Childhood Education

Magazines: Fluff or Useful?

- Are published primarily to make a profit for the publisher
- Usually published weekly or monthly
- Rarely contain footnotes or bibliographies
- Fluff Examples: *Time*, *Sports Illustrated*, *Readers Digest*, *Glamour*. Not scholarly at all.
- Useful Example: *Dance Magazine*. Serves readers in the dance profession.

Web Sites: things to keep in mind

- Who is the author?
- Is the site scholarly in nature?
- Is it about your research topic? Or did the search engine just find it because of keywords?
- Do you know the meaning of .gov, .edu, .org, .com?
- Beware of ~