

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”

SEARCH TIPS:

Your goal is to find a manageable number of useful books and articles. The same principles work both in the library catalog and in the databases.

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.

BRAND-NEW LIBRARY SEARCH TOOL:

<http://encore.winthrop.edu> → shows results and an overview. More like a web search.

→ type in “dance” or “choreography” → see many hits and choices for more specific materials

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.

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

G	M	N
• GR – Folklore, only when it includes actors’ biography	• ML141 – Musical productions	• NX180 – Performing arts & body
• GT – costume design	• ML1571 - ML1711 – Opera	P
• GV1199 - GV9999 – Dance	• MT955 – Production and direction of musicals	• PN1560 - PN1590 – Performing arts

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.

What kind of information is published where?

- a. **Definitions** (found in encyclopedias, dictionaries, handbooks) – found in library catalog because they're books.
- b. **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.
- c. **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.
- d. **Articles about specific subjects** – “Databases by Subject” for the best databases for each area of study.
- e. **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.
- f. **Special-interest approaches to a given topic** (found in magazines, organizational newsletters, web-sites).
- g. **Opinions** (found in newspaper and magazine editorials, books, and web sites published by special-interest groups).

Journals vs. Magazines

Journals: Scholarly

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

Magazines: Fluff or Useful?

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

Web Sites: things to keep in mind

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