
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

212-650-2225

For current Library hours visit us at [metmuseum.org/art/libraries-and-research-centers/thomas-j-watson-library](https://www.metmuseum.org/art/libraries-and-research-centers/thomas-j-watson-library)

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 to 2020.

For a brief overview of the history of The Met, begin your research on the Museum’s website: <https://www.metmuseum.org/about-the-met>

Press releases, news, and announcements dating from 1991 to the present can be found here: <https://www.metmuseum.org/press>

The Met Fifth Avenue

(1000 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10028)

Selected Books

[Bayer, Andrea, and Laura D. Corey, eds. 2020. *Making the Met, 1870-2020*. New York: The Metropolitan Museum of Art.](#)

[Danziger, Danny. 2007. *Museum: behind the scenes at the Metropolitan Museum of Art*. New York: Viking.](#) (freely [available online](#) through the Internet Archive; requires creation of a personal account)

[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: \[Printed at the Gilliss Press\].](#) (freely [available online](#))

[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.](#) (freely [available online](#) through the Internet Archive; requires creation of a personal account)

Selected 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 Subject Heading Searches in Watsonline**

[Metropolitan Museum of Art \(New York, N.Y.\) — History](#)

[Metropolitan Museum of Art \(New York, N.Y.\) — Buildings](#)

The Cloisters

(99 Margaret Corbin Drive, Fort Tryon Park, New York, NY 10040)

Selected Books

[Barnet, Peter, and Nancy Y. Wu. 2005. *The Cloisters: medieval art and architecture*. New York: Metropolitan Museum of Art. \(freely \[available online\]\(#\) through the Internet Archive; requires creation of a personal account\)](#)

[Parker, Elizabeth C., and Mary B. Shepard. 1992. *The Cloisters: studies in honor of the fiftieth anniversary*. New York: Metropolitan Museum of Art. \(freely \[available online\]\(#\) in Watson's Digital Collections\)](#)

[Rorimer, James J., and Katherine Serrell Rorimer. 1972. *Medieval monuments at the Cloisters as they were and as they are*. \(freely \[available online\]\(#\) in Watson's Digital Collections and through MetPublications\)](#)

Selected Journal Articles

[Husband, Timothy. "Creating the Cloisters": *The Metropolitan Museum of Art Bulletin*, v. 70, no. 4 \(Spring, 2013\). \(freely \[available online\]\(#\) through MetPublications\)](#)

[Leuchak, Mary Rebecca. "'Old World for the New': Developing the Design for the Cloisters." *The Metropolitan Museum Journal*, v. 23 \(1988\): 257-277. \(freely \[available online\]\(#\) through MetPublications\)](#)

[Schrader, J. L. "George Grey Barnard: The Cloisters and The Abbaye." *The Metropolitan Museum of Art Bulletin*, v. 37, no. 1 \(Summer, 1979\): 1-52. \(freely \[available online\]\(#\) through MetPublications\)](#)

Suggested Subject Heading Searches in Watsonline

[Cloisters \(Museum\)](#)

[Cloisters \(Museum\) — History](#)

[Cloisters \(Museum\) — Buildings](#)

Online Resources

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, images of the Museum's architecture, and permanent and special exhibition gallery views.

Historical New York Times Database

Click [here](#) to access ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The New York Times. 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 of *The New York Times* from its first issue on Sept 18, 1851 through issues published as recently as four years ago. It provides articles in downloadable PDF files as well.

Google News Aggregator

Click [here](#) to access search results for The Metropolitan Museum of Art on 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 or use our virtual chat service, Ask a Librarian, Monday-Friday, 10am-4pm, from the [Watsonline](#) homepage.

*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/p15324coll10/id/197410>

**To search by subject heading from the [Watsonline](#) homepage, set the dropdown to the left of the search bar to "Subject" before you run your search. Subject headings are assigned to each book by library staff to make it easier to find books that are related. 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 within item records that relate to your topic.

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