

CCL-EAR COMMITTEE REVIEW
Oxford Art Online
February 2015

In February 2015, selected members of the Council of Chief Librarians, Electronic Access to Resources Committee (CCL-EAR) undertook a "hands-on" study of Oxford Art Online. Ratings are based upon the potential value of the product to the California Community Colleges as a whole and not solely on the needs of any specific campus.

RANKINGS:

- #1 --- Not recommended
- #2 --- Recommended with reservations as noted
- #3 --- Recommended
- #4 --- Outstanding offer

The following features were examined and rated on a four point scale (1=Poor; 2=Needs Improvement; 3=Good; 4=Excellent):

- **DATABASE CONTENT/FORMAT:**
Consider functionality, appropriateness of format, database content, adequacy of coverage (retrospective, current), and value to the California Community Colleges as a whole.
- **SEARCH INTERFACE:**
Consider the functionality and ease of use of the interface. Is it intuitive or is an excessive amount of training required? Are any crucial features missing from the search interface?
- **USER SUPPORT SERVICES:**
What types of customer and technical support are available for end users and library administrators?
- **COST:**
If cost is available, does it seem reasonable in terms of comparable products?
- **AVAILABILITY/ACCESSIBILITY OF SERVICE:**
Is access/connection to product reliable and stable? Is response time adequate? Is product accessible to users with disabilities?

OVERALL ASSESSMENT: 3, 3, 3

Oxford Art Online contains a strong set of reference material in the visual arts; content is periodically updated, although its parity with editions of the source material is not always clear. The search interface is adequate, with the caveat that students can be led into content that their institution does not own. The product is ADA/Section 508 compliant, but could use improvement to streamline navigation for users with screen readers. Overall, we recommend Oxford Art Online for any community college with Art History courses or other courses requiring research into the visual arts.

DATABASE CONTENT/FORMAT: 3, 3, 3

Oxford Art Online includes several Oxford art reference resources, and incorporates and succeeds Grove Art Online. All content is full-text and is cross-searchable. Contents include the full text of:

- *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Art Terms*, edited by Michael Clarke and Deborah Clarke (2001): A quick reference source featuring 1,800 entries on art terms, critical periods, and styles in the visual arts. Note: there is a newer print edition of this title, the second edition, which came out in 2010. According to Oxford University Press, revised entries from the newer edition are incorporated into the online resource, although the noted edition number of the source title does not change. Updated content from a new print edition is not released all at once, but gradually. The vendor noted that the online version may have different images, different cross-references, and stylistic differences, and they recommend purchasing both the print title (or its ebook form) in addition to the content in Oxford Art Online for anyone wishing truly complete coverage for this title.
- *Encyclopedia of Aesthetics*, edited by Michael Kelly (1998): More than 600 articles covering major concepts, thinkers, and debates about the meaning, uses, and value of all the arts. A second edition of this title came out in 2014. As noted for *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Art Terms* above, content for this title in Oxford Art Online is updated gradually.
- *The Oxford Companion to Western Art*, edited by Hugh Brigstocke (2001): More than 2,600 entries covering over 1,700 artists and their work.
- *Grove Art Online* was originally published in 1996 as the *Dictionary of Art*, edited by Jane Turner. This scholarly encyclopedia covers Western and non-Western art, and all aspects of visual culture. It includes bibliographies and searchable images made available through partnerships with arts organizations, museums and galleries. Unlike the other titles included with Oxford Art Online, *Grove Art Online* entries are reviewed and updated, and new content is added, on a periodic basis.

- Over 45,000 signed articles and images on every aspect of the visual arts
- Over 15,000 subject entries and over 22,000 biographies, contributed by nearly 7,000 international scholars – all with bibliographies for further research
- Nearly 7,000 searchable images from such outstanding organizations as the Metropolitan Museum of Art, as well as 40,000 editorially selected image links to museums and galleries, provide essential visual support for art history scholarship
- Learning resources including subject guides, timelines, and resources for educators designed by the Museum of Modern Art (New York)
- An optional addition to Oxford Art Online (and not included in the CCL offer) is the *Benezit Dictionary of Artists*, a regularly updated source with nearly 170,000 entries on artists throughout history and in the present day.

The Oxford Art Online site is updated three times per year. Updates include new and revised articles, search and navigation updates, and other unspecified improvements to functionality.

SEARCH INTERFACE: 3, 3, 3

Home | About | What's New | Subscriber Services | Contact Us | Help | Logout

Oxford Art Online

ALL CONTENT | BIOGRAPHIES | SUBJECT ENTRIES | IMAGES | TOOLS & RESOURCES

SEARCH

Search Only: Grove Art Images
[Advanced Search](#)

Search results for 'picasso'

Your search for 'search: *picasso*, source: *Grove Art Online*' returned 652 results [Advanced search](#)

Results Per Page 25 [GO](#)

1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | ... | 27 Next page »

Thumbnails On Print Email

Picasso, Pablo (Biography)
Spanish painter, sculptor, draughtsman, printmaker, decorative artist and writer, active in France. He dominated 20th-century European art and was central in the...
Source: [Grove Art Online](#)

 **Pablo Picasso: Guernica, oil on canvas, 3.51×7.82 m, 1937 (Madrid,...)** (Image)
© 2007 Estate of Pablo Picasso/Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York, photo credit: Erich Lessing/Art Resource, NY
Source: [Grove Art Online](#)

 **Pablo Picasso: Igor Stravinsky, pencil and charcoal, 620×485 mm, 1920...** (Image)
© Estate of Pablo Picasso/Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York, photo credit: Réunion des Musées Nationaux/Art Resource, NY
Source: [Grove Art Online](#)

 **Pablo Picasso: Ambroise Vollard, oil on canvas, 920×650 mm, 1910...** (Image)
© 2007 Estate of Pablo Picasso/Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York, photo credit: Erich Lessing/Art Resource, NY
Source: [Grove Art Online](#)

[About the Index](#) Show related links Search across all

Oxford Art Online has a clean, modern interface design. The search box is located in the upper right where most users expect it to be. The user has the ability to limit by facets once search results are retrieved. Thumbnail-sized images are included in search results when relevant, clicking on these gives users a full-sized image, which can be copied or saved, though similar images can be found from a Google Images search.

Advanced search options include the ability to search only entry title instead of the default full article text, which brings in many marginally relevant articles. The advanced search also has different search options, accessible through tabs along the top, for Image Search, Biography Search, Bibliography Search and Main Search.

There is no spell-check or validation for misspellings of names. A “did you mean” or list of names might be helpful for users who are unsure of the spelling of an artist’s name.

A video guided tour and a PowerPoint tour is available for Grove Art Online and for the Benezit Dictionary of Artists. A web-based tips page is also available.

There is a What’s New section that details new content added to the database. Text of articles is appropriately hyperlinked, neither too much nor too little. Search terms are highlighted in the article text, though this is easily turned off with a button at the top of the page.

The user may be easily confused by the names of the resources included, despite frequent clarifications on pages. For example, in this statement, “Oxford Art Online is the access point for Grove Art Online, the Benezit Dictionary of Artists, and other Oxford art reference resources. You may have access to Grove, Benezit, or both; your list of sources and search results automatically reflect your settings” it is not clear to the user which resources are included and which will be excluded from their search results. Oxford should consider making changes so that subscribers do not see references to resources that they will not have access to.

The front page may include links to content that an institution does not subscribe to, leading to confusion and disappointment on the part of users. Some content from resources not subscribed to is included, but if a user follows certain of the links, they will get access denied error messages. When this reviewer clicked on a link to content in the Benezit Dictionary of Artists, the result was a mangled error message: “Forbidden Sorry, you do not have access to . Please contact your library administrator.” This is a problem that Oxford should fix. An article may include hyperlinks to content in other Oxford Art publications, some of which will result in the “Forbidden” error message.

The site includes a beta feature, the Oxford Index, which is a bar at the bottom of the page which allows searching across all Oxford content. If an institution subscribes to other Oxford products this may be a useful feature.

Also included are links to related images on other websites, featuring Oxford Art Online image partners, Art Resource and Bridgeman Education and content in Art Resource (<http://www.artres.com>) a “fine art stock photo archive, with more than 1,000,000 searchable fine art images from the world’s leading sources, available for licensing to all media.”

The system supports OpenURL and provides downloads of MARC records.

Users can print or email articles and images. The email option only sends links to content, so the user will have to go into the database (and reauthenticate if off-

campus) to access the content. Users can save content using the web browser's save feature.

Citations are available in MLA and Chicago formats. Citation export to reference managers is also supported. Persistent links are included in the citations.

USER SUPPORT: 4, 3, 3

Online help is available on all pages: the main page, the results page and the entry page. Although it is not context sensitive, it includes general information such as logging in, searching, interpreting search results and technical information (browsers, settings and cookies). Additionally, there are training videos and guided tours (in PowerPoint or PDF format) on the Oxford University Press USA Librarians Resource Center website. They are comprehensive and well-written. Oxford University Press also provides on-site and online training as well as online tutorial and user guides to its subscribers for free. Their technical support is available via email and telephone, Monday through Friday, 9:00 am through 5:00 pm EST.

Oxford University Press alerts subscribers to changes in the database through their RSS feed and mailing list. Librarians can sign up for Oxford University Press mailing list at <http://www.oup.com.online/listserv> to get up-to-date information. Librarians can also follow Oxford University Press on Facebook, Twitter, Tumblr and blog to get the latest information on the database. The license agreement is available on the CCLC's website under Oxford University Press offerings.

COST: 3, 3, 3

The cost is based on FTE. Oxford University Press does not guarantee cost increase caps. However, if a library wants to do a multi-year (2-3 years) subscription, Oxford University Press would consider it on a case by case basis. If a library purchases perpetual access to some of the content and subscribes to Oxford Art Online, Oxford University Press does offer a discount, either on the perpetual access purchase or the subscription.

AVAILABILITY/ACCESSIBILITY OF SERVICE: 3, 3, 3

The database was assessed for accessibility using Jaws and tools at <http://www.w3.org/WAI/eval/preliminary.html>

This database is ADA/Section 508 compliant, with reservations. Most images have descriptive text adjacent to them, but many thumbnail versions of images have inappropriate alt text, for example, a thumbnail image of Vincent Van Gogh's *Self-portrait with a Straw Hat* has the alt text, "unable to display image." This could be confusing for a user relying on that alt text. It was difficult to navigate to the search box using the Jaws screen reader, and it was not possible to close the popup about the use of cookies in Jaws.

Access to this database is controlled via IP address ranges for on-campus users, for remote authentication subscribers can use EZproxy, usernames and passwords, Shibboleth, referrer URLs, or library card numbers.

Usage reports for Oxford Art Online are available in COUNTER-1 format.

Code is provided so that a library can embed a search box for Oxford Art Online on other web pages.

OTHER REVIEWS OF THIS DATABASE:

Applegate, Sarah. "Grove Art Online." *Library Media Connection* 32.3 (2013): 95.
Academic Search Premier. Web. 27 Feb. 2015.