The American Art Therapy Association (AATA) is pleased to provide this guide to library resources on the field of art therapy. This updated guide includes information previously provided by The George Washington University Library and current information on online library searches from the staff at the Lesley University [http://www.lesley.edu] Ludcke Library.

LITERATURE SEARCHES

Today, almost all library catalogs are online rather than in card catalog form. As a result, keyword searching rather than standard subject-heading searching has become typical. Keyword searching allows combinations of concepts such as “art therapy” and “children” or “art” and “mental illness.” Although the Library of Congress [http://www.loc.gov] subject headings can be useful for standardized terminology for books, most periodical indexes use their own thesauri. Keyword searching allows more flexibility and, depending upon how you use it, more precision or greater scope.

Search Tips

Truncation
Many databases allow a user to truncate words in a search to retriever variant endings. Commonly used truncation symbols are * and $. An example would be therap* = therapy, therapies, therapeutic. However, do not use this search method for art because art* finds unrelated words like, article, artificial, artifice, etc.

Use any of the following methods to search:

- art therapy
- therap* and art
- patient and art
- trauma and art
- creative arts therap*
- art therap* and (topic)

Call Numbers
Call numbers for material in art therapy vary according to the major emphasis of the book. Library of Congress call numbers follow a standardized system. Here are examples of call number areas that may include art therapy material:

- BF (psychology)
- GV (recreation)
- HV (social sciences)
- LB (education)
- N (art)
- RC, RJ, RM (medical sciences)
- WM (National Library of Medicine call number for Art Therapy)

Many libraries subscribe to a service called OCLC’s WorldCat that includes over 36 million items, mostly books, from thousands of libraries in the United States and selected other countries. (For a de-
Libraries and databases such as Academic Search Premier/EBSCOHost, PsycINFO, Medical Literature Analysis and Retrieval System Online (Medline), Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health (CINAHL), and Education Resources Information Center (ERIC) are useful for accessing information on art therapy. OCLC FirstSearch is also a widely used library services company.
Art Abstracts is the online version of Art Index in abstract form. It covers the world of art, including painting, sculpture, architecture, video, and film. Indexes leading art publications, including art reproductions.

Article1st contains citations for articles in the humanities, popular culture, social science, technology, business, and medicine. Each record lists library holdings with some abstracts included.

Periodical Abstracts is a multi-subject periodical index to the sciences, humanities, and social sciences, as well as topics of general interest. It includes all journals from Readers’ Guide to Periodical Literature as well as several other indexes. Full-text articles are available.

INDEXES AND ABSTRACTS

Abstracts in Social Gerontology- Available though http://www.sagepub.com

Child Development Abstracts and Bibliography- Contains abstracts of articles which have appeared in psychological, educational, medical and other journals which deal with the study of children. It includes notices of new books, pamphlets, and periodicals in the field. Go to http://www.srcd.org/cdab.html.


Sage Family Studies Abstracts- Covers books, articles, and government publications in the fields of psychology, sociology, education and law as they apply to families. See http://www.sagepub.com.

Dissertation Abstracts at http://il.proquest.com/brand/umi.shtml is the definitive guide to more than 1.6 million doctoral dissertations and master’s theses. It offers access to more than 90 percent of the doctoral dissertations accepted each year in North America. It is the most comprehensive information resource covering doctoral dissertations and master's theses.

HELPFUL HANDBOOKS FOR PUBLICATION AND LITERATURE SEARCHES


PROFESSIONAL JOURNALS

Art Therapy: Journal of the American Art Therapy Association
The Arts in Psychotherapy
The Canadian Art Therapy Association Journal
International Journal of Art Therapy: Inscape [previously called Inscape: The Journal of the British Association of Art Therapists]
Journal of Creativity in Mental Health
Psychology of Aesthetics, Creativity, and the Arts
Arts & Health (available March 2009)

THE WORLD WIDE WEB [aka WWW]

Thousands of sites for art therapy, psychology, health sciences, and art exist on the World Wide Web (WWW). They vary tremendously in quality. The WWW is a dynamic source for information that changes daily. While there is a wide range of information, remember that there is no screening on the Internet to separate authoritative from amateur information.

Many search engines exist to provide some order to Internet searching. Google, http://www.google.com, and Yahoo!, http://www.yahoo.com, are two widely used search engines for obtaining information on the Internet. Google provides a "cheat sheet" on how to use its search engine.
and get the most out of your search at http://www.google.com/intl/en/help/cheatsheet.html. Other
search engines include:

**Google Scholar** at http://scholar.google.com/ provides a simple way to broadly search for scholarly
literature. You can search across many disciplines and sources: peer-reviewed papers, theses, books,
abstracts and articles, from academic publishers, professional societies, preprint repositories, universi-
ties and other scholarly organizations.

**iBoogie** at http://iboogie.com/ clusters groupings of similar objects from a given set of inputs. In the
context of search engines, it will put documents with similar content or with related topics into the same
cluster (group).

**OTHER RESOURCES**

Visit the American Art Therapy Association at http://www.arttherapy.org. This official web site of the
American Art Therapy Association contains information about the association, various upcoming con-
ference and symposia, lists of publications, and links to other useful sites. Consider becoming a mem-
ber of the AATA and take advantage of access to resources, publications, and discounts on conferences
and other services.

Educators may distribute this document for classroom use. Contact us at:

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