LIBRARY

Research Guide 17

Image Sources

A guide to finding photographs, pictures and graphics

The aim of this guide is to help you locate images in the Library and beyond. It covers such key sources as online image databases, the internet, encyclopaedias, compilations of illustrations and journals. It will also help you find collections of copyright-free illustrations, which permit free reproduction of the images they bring together.

Finding online sources

Databases

Image databases are searchable online collections of images available for educational purposes. Details of illustrations and reproductions of works of art - including photographs - appearing in print and electronic journals can be found using bibliographic databases. Databases are web resources that the Library subscribes to and can be accessed on and off-campus, you will be asked for your Brookes login details.

Image Databases

ARTstor

Offers more than a million images covering a wide variety of subjects including art, architecture, religion, anthropology, literature and history. The images can be used in coursework, classroom presentations and Brookes Virtual.

Bridgeman Education

This is an art history database but it provides images useful for a wide variety of subjects including archaeology, art, fashion, history, geography, architecture, literature, science, religion, and anthropology. The images are available for educational purposes to Brookes students and staff and may be viewed, printed or downloaded for reproduction in coursework, for classroom presentation, or into Moodle.

British Cartoon Archive

Cartoon artwork dating from 1904 onwards. Covers a range of topics. Images can be downloaded for use in a non-commercial educational context.

Bibliographic Databases

These can be used to find references to images in print and electronic journals. The following are particularly useful for art, design and architecture topics:

Art full text

A very useful source for finding references for reproductions of paintings, sculptures and photographs. Under **Document Type** you can limit your search to **Art Reproduction**.

Covers visual arts, architecture, interior design, landscape, garden design.

Performing arts periodicals database

A very significant database for the performing arts, containing over a third of a million references to journal articles and reviews on dance, film, musical theatre, opera, performance art, television and theatre. To limit your search select **Illustrations** from **Document feature,** you will need to be in **Advanced Search.**

Other Electronic Resources

Oxford Dictionary of National Biography (Full text)

An illustrated collection of articles providing the life stories of over 50,000 people who have shaped the history of the British Isles and beyond, from the earliest times to those who died in recent years. Images can be searched separately by artist, date, institution or place. You can also find the details of the copyright holders of the images.

Visual English Dictionary

6,000 labelled colour illustrations for a very wide range of subjects. Part of the Oxford Reference Online Collection.

Vogue Archive (Full text)

Access to the complete run of US Vogue from 1892 to the most recent edition. Contains over 400,000 pages produced as high resolution full colour images.

Internet for image searching

It is important to remember that images on the internet are subject to copyright legislation. You should always check for terms and conditions of use before copying digital images. You can search for images on the internet by using one of the major search engines, a gateway to image sites or by locating sites which are likely to contain a lot of images or links to images (such as museums and art galleries).

Search engines

These should be used with care. The quality of the images found is variable and usage conditions and restrictions are attached to each individual image.

Picsearch is a user friendly image search engine.

http://www.picsearch.com/

The following search engines offer image search options:

Google

http://images.google.co.uk/

It is possible to filter your results by licence type:

- Do your initial Google Images search (eg "bee")
- On the results page, just below the search box, click the Search Tools button
- From the menu that then appears below, select Usage Rights
- Select "Labeled for non-commercial re-use" or "Labeled for non-commercial re-use with modification"

Yahoo

http://images.search.yahoo.com/

Gateways to image sites

VADS: the online resource for visual arts

An image catalogue giving access to over 100,000 images freely available to the academic community.

http://vads.ac.uk/

Wellcome Images

Over 170,000 images from the Wellcome Library Collections, covering medical and social history from the earliest times to the present day.

https://wellcomecollection.org/works?wellcomeImagesUrl=/

Other internet image sources

Art and Architecture

Over 40,000 images from the collections of the Courtauld Institute of Art. Free to use but registration required.

http://www.artandarchitecture.org.uk/

British Printed Images to 1700

Thousands of prints and book illustrations from early modern Britain. Images can be downloaded for personal use.

http://www.bpi1700.org.uk/index.html

Flickr Commons

Launched in 2008 to promote access to publicly held photography collections. Participating institutions include the Library of Congress, the Smithsonian Institute and New York Public Library. Copyright information is attached to each image, many have no known restrictions.

http://www.flickr.com/commons/

Free Images.co.uk

More than 18,000 original stock photographs available for use online and in print. Mailing list membership required and images must be credited.

http://www.freeimages.co.uk/

Imageafter

Free online collection of photographs and textures for use in both commercial and non-commercial work.

http://www.imageafter.com/

MorgueFile

Archive of photographs freely contributed by artists for use in creative projects by visitors to the site. No registration required but photographs must be appropriately credited.

http://www.morguefile.com/

Pixaby

Over a million high quality images that are free to use, even for commercial purposes.

https://pixabay.com/

StockSnap

Free to use stock photos. No attribution required.

https://stocksnap.io/

Unsplash

Free stock photo site. All images are hi-resolution and there are no restrictions on use. Ten new images added every ten days.

http://unsplash.com/

Wikimedia Commons

A database of nearly 4,000,000 freely usable media files to which anyone can contribute.

http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Main_Page

Sources of icons

Freepik

https://www.freepik.com/

The Noun Project

Over 2 million curated icons. Free to use but may require attribution.

https://thenounproject.com/

undrawn

https://undraw.co/

Copyright

For information about copyright and the use of images in coursework and teaching please see:

More information:

If you need any more information about, or help with finding images please contact the Academic Liaison Librarian for the School of Arts, **Chris Fowler**.

Her contact details are as follows:

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