Hints and Tips for DHM 3033, Material Culture
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This outline is intended to give you suggestions for a number of resources you may choose from when searching for information on your paper topics for this class.

Taking a theoretical framework and applying it to some item/phenomenon that you find interesting, doing an interpretation of how that item/phenomenon shows the workings of that theory. Exciting but maybe not easy! This is why I admire your professors.

This is a great opportunity to apply the tenacity and resource skills that can carry you far as a researcher! As you’re working on this project, you may want to make a series of mind maps or something similar. I also recommend keeping a log of what sources you’ve explored, what keywords you’ve used, and to use a thesaurus to find keywords useful for your searches. Many of the databases recommended here have their own thesauri or lists of subject terms.

LIBGUIDES:

Our subject specialists for Art, Art History and Architecture, Marketing, and Design, Housing & Merchandising have prepared Research Guides for areas of interest to this class. These guides cover some of the basic research resources in each field. Here are the links:

Architecture (Susan Bobo):  http://info.library.okstate.edu/architecture

Art (Susan Bobo):  http://info.library.okstate.edu/c.php?q=151987

Design, Housing & Merchandising (Helen Clements)  http://info.library.okstate.edu/c.php?q=151917

Marketing (Victor Baeza)  http://info.library.okstate.edu/marketing

To Use Wikipedia or Not? Some Considerations!

1. Dr. Hebert tells you she will not accept it as a cited reference for your paper.
2. The quality of articles varies. Check the TALK tab for each article to see what the status of the article is. How many of the resources cited are going to be: a) authoritative publications, b) available to you?
3. Is there better information ELSEWHERE?
   a. Use a Google search for your topic with the extra filter, site:.edu, or site:.org. That will help you avoid a lot of .coms that may or may not be good sources.
   b. Essential: Take advantage of the Library’s myriad resources
   c. You also have the DHM RESOURCE LIBRARY, on the second floor of Human Sciences. It has many good books, especially about interiors.

WHEN LOOKING FOR ARTICLES:

1. You will probably use a mix of general-reader magazines and academic journals.
2. Remember that academic journals are NOT always peer-reviewed (refereed). Many of the databases will tell you if they are, but the UlrichsWeb directory of periodicals is your best indicator for “it is” or “it isn’t” peer reviewed. (See below for details.)
3. If you aren’t sure where a journal might be indexed, go to the “full text journals” list and check for that title. We take a large number of journals that are NOT available full text in the ProQuest or EBSCO databases.
4. Think about a variety of keywords—synonyms, variations on the word, etc. Use a thesaurus! Keep a log of your searches.

DATABASES THAT MAY BE OF INTEREST:
There are tens of thousands of journals published worldwide each year. NO one database covers them all. No one library has every journal, much less in full text online. Allow time to request some of the resources you need on interlibrary loan. Find the request form at this link: Borrow from Another Library.

A. EBSCO databases
   a. Academic Search Premier (the “umbrella” database)
   b. America, History & Life (covers historical journals. We may have backfiles in print, rather than online)
   c. Art & Architecture Complete
   d. Avery Index to Art & Architecture
   e. Bibliography of Native North Americans (Good for American Indian topics.
   f. Business Source Premier (The major EBSCO business database)
   g. GreenFile (deals with issues of environment and sustainability)
   h. Humanities International Complete
B. ProQuest Databases
   a. ProQuest Research Library (the “umbrella” database)
   b. PsycInfo (Perhaps, if you’re dealing with psychological effects of something material)
   c. Sociological Abstracts (This also covers a good deal of the literature in anthropology. We have many of the anthropology journals in Sage or Wiley databases.)
   d. Vogue Archive
   e. Women’s Wear Daily
   f. American Periodicals, 1740-1940 (Has good 19th-century content, including Harper’s Bazaar and Godey’s Ladies’ Book. A HUGE disappointment is that some of the illustrations are badly reproduced—probably scanned from microfilm.)

C. Databases from “Single” providers
   a. JSTOR (possible links to latest articles in other databases). This is probably your best source for the older issues of “core” journals. It often does NOT include the last 3-5 years of a given journal. But we will often have those years in another database.
   b. ArtStor (Images database for educational use; many prestigious contributors)
   c. Sage Journals (Big social sciences publisher)
   d. Chicago Journals
   e. Project Muse Article database covering a variety of journals in social sciences and humanities
   f. Building Green Suite (materials, standards, etc.—examples)
   g. Annual Reviews databases (Anthropology, especially—a possible source of research reports on material culture, clothing. Graduate students need this!)
   h. Library of Congress (many collections of photographs, papers, maps, ad infinitum).

D. Individual Journals of Interest!
   a. You will discover many! Please let me know about your “finds”. I’ll add them to the LibGuide
   b. Journal of Material Culture (Sage)
   c. Journal of Design History
   d. Folklore (Folklore Society) (Taylor & Francis)
   e. Winterthur Portfolio ("high" culture) (Chicago)
   f. International Journal of Cultural Studies (Sage)
   g. Ethnohistory, American Anthropologist, and other anthropology journals
   h. Comparative Studies in Society and History (JSTOR, Cambridge)
   i. Technology and Culture (Project Muse)
j. If you know a title, start with the “Full Text Journals” list. If not, use a database and find titles that are rich in your topic of interest. Older (Print) journals: use a JOURNAL TITLE search in the Library Catalog.

E. MAGAZINES—
   a. While you don’t want to use these as your scholarly sources, you may find them useful for giving you a good idea about the dimensions of your topic (who, what, when, where, why, how, etc.)
   b. Smithsonian
   c. National Museum of the American Indian
   d. Architectural Digest (And many more)

F. Suggested Search Terms
   a. Start with your topic keyword by itself and see what you get. Example: men’s clothing, Texas furniture
   b. Add a general term like “Material culture” or “customs” or “folklore” or “clothing and dress” (a subject heading)
   c. Keep a list of the keywords you use and “run” the same search in different databases. Databases don’t all use exactly the same words to index! Try variations. Look for the Subjects/Descriptors on each article.

G. Is the Article Really Peer Reviewed?
   a. See if the article is REALLY peer reviewed. UlrichsWeb is a database which provides directory of information about journals. (It does not include any articles.)
   b. Search by the title of the journal (not the article), to find the “referee shirt” icon that that confirms if the journal is peer reviewed.
   c. Many EBSCO databases do have a link in the “detailed record” view that indicates whether a journal is peer reviewed or not.

H. Notes of Caution
   a. Watch Out for book reviews. In scholarly journals, an article that’s only 2-3 pages long is often a book review.

I. Interlibrary Loan:
   a. Go to the Borrow from Another Library link on the library homepage. Ordering a book can take much longer than an article, because of the mailing. Don’t wait too long!