African Art and the Diaspora

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OBJECT/IMAGE-CENTERED RESEARCH

- **find out** as much as possible about your object
[START WITH OBSERVATION/IMAGE RECORD – museum label or collection databases THEN monographs, exhibition catalogs]

- **use SECONDARY SOURCES** to explore **historical background and cultural context**
[SEARCH CATALOG for books, DATABASES for journal articles, REFERENCE WORKS for overview]

- **find RELATED and SIMILAR** objects that can help shed light on your object
[READ REFERENCE WORKS, EXHIBITION CATALOGS, MONOGRAPHS, JOURNAL ARTICLES]

- **develop** your thoughts/assertions
[COMBINE your own thinking with what you’ve learned from sources]

- **test** your conclusions against **OTHERS’ RESEARCH**
[READ JOURNAL ARTICLES, MONOGRAPHS]
THE MUSEUM LABEL/COLLECTION ITEM RECORD

Title

Artist

About artist, subject, context

Culture

Dimensions

Material

etc

How does the museum frame it?

https://www.brooklynmuseum.org/opencollection/objects/186816
WHAT DO YOU ALREADY KNOW?

WHO is/was involved? Individuals, organizations, categories of stakeholders, etc.
WHAT is/was of interest? Concepts, genres, places, activities, events, etc.
WHERE do/did these things happen? Geographic places, specific environments, etc.
WHEN were the objects/spaces you’re focusing on in use? Specific years, larger eras, etc.
IDENTIFY RELATED QUESTIONS

What do you need to know?
What are you interested in learning more about?
How and why do these words and ideas relate?
general reference source, like
http://www.oxfordartonline.com
SEARCHING THE LIBRARY CATALOG

https://www.amherst.edu/library/
Search the catalog
Browse the stacks

1) Find a book in the catalog related to your image in some way
2) Go locate it in the stacks and bring it back; bring back a second book nearby that looks relevant
RESOURCE GUIDE
www.amherst.edu/library/find/courseguides/1617F/arha-270
NEXT STEPS

MORE RESEARCH HELP:
MAKE AN APPOINTMENT!
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USE THE RESEARCH GUIDES:
COURSE GUIDE: www.amherst.edu/library/find/courseguides/1617F/arha-270
ARHA GUIDE: www.amherst.edu/library/find/researchguides/ARHA
IMAGE GUIDE: www.amherst.edu/library/find/researchguides/images

WORLDCAT/INTER-LIBRARY LOAN:
www.amherst.edu/library/find/alphabetlist#W
www.amherst.edu/library/services/request

THE WRITING CENTER:
www.amherst.edu/~writing/

be not afraid of the librarians