

	<h1>Researching a BUILDING</h1>
Revised September 2008	Architecture & Fine Arts Library, University of Florida, Gainesville

## 1. Consult a reference source.

What do you already know about the building? Usually a building can be tracked by its name(s), architect, location, or period/style. Save time by first finding some basic, accurate information about a building. A dictionary or other reference book is usually the best place to find brief, authoritative information. These basic tools might have all the information you need -- or lead you to other sources, such as articles, books, or web sites that are cited in them.

### Start with these reference works:

**Grove Dictionary of Art.** N31.D5 1996 Reference (AFA Library or Library West Reference)

Especially useful for gathering background information on architects, styles, and cultures.

This 34-volume comprehensive encyclopedia is also available as an online database, **Oxford Art Online**.

See the AFA Library website for fast access <<http://web.uflib.ufl.edu/afa>> .

**International Dictionary of Architects and Architecture.**

NA40 .I48 1993 Reference (AFA Library or Library West Reference)

This dictionary's approach by architect (vol. 1) and building (vol. 2) makes it unique.

**International Dictionary of Historic Places**

CC135 .I585 1994 (AFA Library or Library West Reference)

This 5-volume work covers the Americas, Europe, Africa, Asia, and Oceania. Very good source for background and contextual information.

**Sir Banister Fletcher's A History of Architecture.** NA200.F63 1996 Reference (AFA Library Reference)

The 'classic' survey of architectural history with hundreds of illustrated examples.

**A Global History of Architecture** NA 200 C493 2007 (AFA Library Reference)

Chronological Survey of important sites and buildings.

**Encyclopedia of 20<sup>th</sup>-Century Architecture** NA 680 E495 2004 (AFA Library Reference)

2-volume work covering architects/firms, places and buildings, as well as other architectural and building topics.

## 2. Find books or parts of books.

Consult the **UF Libraries Catalog**, to find books and other materials (such as DVD and Videotapes) owned by the UF Libraries. A keyword search often yields the best results. Use building name, architect's name, period, style, or location.

## 3. Find articles in journals.

Use the **Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals** to find articles about buildings.

The Avery Index covers over 2000 architectural periodicals and subject coverage includes architecture, landscape design, interior design, and planning.

Also useful are **Art "Full Text"** and **Art Index Retrospective**. Together these provide indexing for over 500 art and architecture journals back to 1929. Only selected records in *Art Full Text* have links to full text articles.

Consult the AFA Library Key Databases list for access to these and other options. <<http://web.uflib.ufl.edu/afa>>

## 4. Find authoritative World Wide Web sites.

Some sites on the World Wide Web can have useful building information. Use these websites with caution and make sure that they are created from authoritative sources. The following site is a good place to start: **Great Buildings Online** <<http://www.greatbuildings.com>>

Also consult the web guides created by library staff for images and architecture sources.

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★Always feel free to consult library staff for assistance with your search for information.