

FAHI0IHIS

Tutorial 4

Research Approaches



Agenda

- Skills: The art history research process
- Activity: Answering research questions

Skills: Art History Research

1. Brainstorming

- Start with your research questions - what do you want to know about the work you're observing.
- Identify and combine keywords

2. Conducting a general search

- Reference works such as encyclopedia and dictionaries

3. Identifying ***scholarly*** sources

- Primary and secondary sources
- Books and periodicals
- When to use websites (hint: not for your next assignment)

Skills: Art History Research

4. Evaluating sources

- Accuracy, authority, bias, audience, and currency
- Quick questions: is there an author who is a professional in the field?

5. Using sources

- Previewing (skimming) and critical reading
- Quoting, paraphrasing, and summarizing

6. Citing sources

- Footnotes and bibliography
- Chicago Manual of Style

Skills: Research Strategies and Tips

- Start broad, then dive into the specifics
- Learn how to recognize a quality source
- Verify information from several sources
- Be open to surprising answers
- Stay organized
- Take advantage of library resources

[Research Tips from MasterClass](#)

The Art History library (on the sixth floor of Sidney Smith) and its Librarian, [Margaret English](#), are amazing resources!

Unfortunately Margaret is currently on leave, but FAH101's very own Christine Clemens is filling in as library steward!

Organizing the research process

Footnote Entry	Nurdan Oncel Taskiran and Nursel Bolat, "Visual Discourse of the Clove: An Analysis on the Ottoman Tile Decoration Art," <i>International Journal of Research in Business and Social Science</i> (January 2012): https://doi.org/10.20525/ijrbs.v1i1.54 .
Keywords, Questions, and Locations	Keywords: Tiles, Iznik, Islam, patterns, naturalist, Ottoman, Turks/Turkish. Locations: University of Toronto Library search Questions: What is the symbolism of the different elements? How did the adoption of Islam influence the tiles?
Type, Purpose, Authority, and Bias	Type: Scholarly Journal Purpose: To provide people, particularly English speakers with an analysis of Ottoman tile decoration art. There are many Turkish sources about Turkish tile art, but that only educates Turkish speakers, and many people will not learn about Ottoman tile art. Because the writing is in English, information about Turkish tiles, from Turkish journal articles and other academic writings is made available to a Western audience.



Tile panel with mihrab-shaped arch (assembled from various panels), 17th century AD

Organizing the research process

	<p>Authority: The article is written by Nurdan Oncel Taskiran, and Nursel Bolat, the former being a PhD holder who is an associate professor at Kocaeli University. The latter, Nursel Bolat, is a lecturer at the Istanbul Arel University. Both the authors are well educated and are well-versed in the subjects the source deals with.</p>
Organization, Evidence, and Currency	<p>Organization: The work does not have a table of contents, but different ideas are sectioned off into appropriate subsections, numbered in a logical fashion, making the work easy to navigate.</p> <p>Evidence: The author provides a well-formatted references list of 21 different and varied sources, which convinces me of its reliability. The bibliography is comprehensive, as sources are not all from one approximate date of publication, which contributes to the source's trustworthiness.</p> <p>Currency: Published in 2012, which is relatively recent, given many of the other sources available to me were published in the early 2000s or earlier. I would say that I am very confident that the information and analysis presented in the work is current enough for my purposes, especially because of the recent update.</p>

Final Evaluation	<p>I would use this source in a research paper about my object, as I am confident in its reliability due to the extensive references list. The sources on the references list are varied, from academic writings and thesis to magazine articles, providing a very full perspective on Ottoman tile art, the history of how it evolved and changed, and other concepts explored in the article. It has been written by two very well educated and well qualified Turkish authors, which reassures me of it's validity as a source for a research paper.</p>
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Activity: Practicing the research process

In small groups (around 2-3 people), find an artwork or topic from this week's module on Tā Moko and Māori Portraits.

- Come up with a research question.
- Search for resources on it – what keywords/search terms did you use? where did you look?
- Choose one resource – what made you choose it?
- Is it a legitimate scholarly source? How can you tell?



Gottfried Lindauer, *Tāmāti Wāka Nene*,
1890. Oil on canvas, 101.9 x 84.2 cm.
Auckland Art Gallery, Auckland.

A great starting point

In addition to using the search form on the library homepage, you can also access lots of scholarship databases.

