

# RESEARCH GUIDE

## Dance

### George Mason University Libraries

This guide focuses primarily on researching dance in general, including the history and practice of dance, choreography and choreographers, dance companies, and performers. For information on other allied disciplines involved in dance productions, such as Music and Art, see that specific Research Guide. Books designated **Ref.** can be found in the Fenwick Reference Room. Although this guide focuses primarily on print resources, some pertinent electronic resources have also been included.

#### **I. Background Information: Subject Encyclopedias and Dictionaries**

These are good resources to consult when you are beginning your research. They will provide information about famous ballets, the history of dance in a particular country or time period, types of dance, important artists, as well as definitions of terms. Some of the works will also provide bibliographies of additional research resources.

*Ballet Guide: Background, Listings, Credits, and Descriptions of More Than Five Hundred of the World's Major Ballets*

**REF. GV1790.A1 T47 1982**

A brief history of the ballet is followed by an alphabetically arranged listing of more than 500 major ballets giving the plot, staging, choreographer, composer, date and place of the first performance, and the dancers that originally appeared in the work

*Dance Words*

**REF. GV1585 .P74 1995**

A mixture of agreed upon technical terms, subcultural vernacular expressions and idiosyncratic utterances representing every facet of dance. Definitions/expressions are attributed to identified sources. Contains a bibliography of resources.

*International Dictionary of Ballet*

**REF. GV1585 .I57 1993 V.1-2**

750 entries covering individual artists (dancers, choreographers, composers, teachers, etc), individual ballets, and ballet companies.

*International Dictionary of Modern Dance*  
**REF. GV1585 .I58 1998**

400 signed entries on all aspects of modern dance. The majority treat individuals who have influenced the art since the 19th century and include biographical details, dates, education, awards, roles (if they were performers), and specific works.

*International Encyclopedia of Dance: A Project of Dance Perspectives Foundation, Inc*  
**REF. GV1585 .I586 1998 V.1-6**

A project of Dance Perspectives Foundation, Inc. covering individual artists, companies, choreographers and choreographed works, as well as types of dance, music for dance, scenic and costume design, theories of aesthetics and methodologies, and dance films. Bibliographies are included.

*Modern Dance Terminology*  
**REF. GV1585 .L65 1997**

Provides good coverage of terms and serves as a companion to the *International Dictionary of Modern Dance*.

*American Ballet Theatre's Online Dictionary*  
**Online - <http://www.abt.org/education/dictionary/index.html>**

American Ballet Theatre's Online Dictionary defines 170 terms from the *Technical Manual and Dictionary of Classical Ballet*. The dictionary uses QuickTime movies to demonstrate the movements.

## **II. Biographical Information**

These resources will cover important choreographers and dancers, composers, designers, and other persons involved in dance.

### **Dance-Specific Resources**

*Biographical Dictionary of Dance*  
**REF. GV1785.A1 C58 1982**

More than 2,900 figures spanning the last four centuries from a wide range of dance and theatrical genre. Includes performers, choreographers, dance impresarios and entrepreneurs, as well as composers and artists associated with dance. Entries include bibliographies.

*Complete Guide to Modern Dance*  
**REF. GV1783 .M26**

Covers the forerunners, founders and contemporary choreographers, including biography, description of significant work, and list of titles and dates of performances.

*Film Choreographers and Dance Directors: An Illustrated Biographical Encyclopedia, with a History and Filmographies, 1893 Through 1995*

**REF. GV1779 .B55 1997**

970 choreographers and dance directors are covered. Also includes a history of dance on film and a filmography of choreographically important works.

*International Dictionary of Modern Dance*

**REF. GV1585 .I58 1998**

400 signed entries on all aspects of modern dance. The majority treat individuals who have influenced the art since the 19th century and include biographical details, dates, education, awards, roles (if they were performers), and specific works.

### **General Resources**

*Biography and Genealogy Master Index*

**REF. INDEXES CT213 .B56**

**Online – [library.gmu.edu/resources/databases.html](http://library.gmu.edu/resources/databases.html)**

A comprehensive index to more than 11 million biographical sketches in over 3,000 volumes and editions of current and retrospective reference works.

*Biography Index*

**REF. INDEXES CT213 .B56x**

Coverage includes English-language periodicals and more than 1,800 books added each year. Includes autobiographies, bibliographies, biographies, critical studies, fiction and drama, pictorial works, poetry, obituaries, book review, interviews & more.

### **III. Periodical Indexes**

To find citations to articles and performance reviews. Some of the databases contain full-text articles and reviews.

#### **Dance/Performing Arts-Specific Resources**

*Index to Dance Periodicals*

**REF. GV1564. I53**

Index to the dance periodicals held in the Dance Collection at the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts. See also *The NYPL Research Libraries Dance Collection Catalog*.

*International Index to the Performing Arts*

**Online – [library.gmu.edu/resources/databases.html](http://library.gmu.edu/resources/databases.html)**

Covers a broad spectrum of the arts and entertainment industry-including dance. Content is drawn from more than 200 scholarly and popular performing arts periodicals, and also indexes a variety of documents such as biographical profiles, conference papers, obituaries, interviews, discographies, reviews and events. Selected full-text coverage.

*(IIMP Full Text) International Index to Music Periodicals*

**Online – [library.gmu.edu/resources/databases.html](http://library.gmu.edu/resources/databases.html)**

Content from more than 375 international music periodicals (some full text) from over 20 countries. Includes some dance articles as well as music.

*The NYPL Research Libraries Dance Collection Catalog*

**Online – [catnyp.nypl.org/search~b1o1c1i1p1r1a1](http://catnyp.nypl.org/search~b1o1c1i1p1r1a1)**

The Dance Catalog lists works about all forms of dance, from all cultures, in print and other media. It includes materials in many languages and serves as an index to an international range of dance periodicals.

## **General Resources**

*A&H Search and Arts & Humanities Citation Index*

**Online – [library.gmu.edu/resources/databases.html](http://library.gmu.edu/resources/databases.html)**

Multidisciplinary databases covering the journal literature of the arts and humanities. Each indexes more than 1,000 of the world's leading arts and humanities journals. Use Arts and Humanities Citation Index to perform cited author searches; some full-text articles.

*Expanded Academic ASAP*

**Online – [library.gmu.edu/resources/databases.html](http://library.gmu.edu/resources/databases.html)**

Use this database to find full-text journal articles on Astronomy, Religion, Law, History, Psychology, Humanities, Current Events, Sociology, and the General Sciences.

*Lexis-Nexis*

**Online – [library.gmu.edu/resources/databases.html](http://library.gmu.edu/resources/databases.html)**

Provides access to a wide range of news (includes New York Times, Washington Post, LA Times) including fine and performing arts news and performance reviews.

## IV. Bibliographies and Research Guides

Use these resources to find bibliographies of resources and research guides for dance. (Note: Bibliographies are lists of resources relating to a particular subject, period, or author; often annotated with descriptive or critical notes on the resources. You can identify additional bibliographies by performing a guided keyword search in the catalog and searching for 1) dance or ballet as a subject term and 2) bibliography as a subject term.)

*Dance: An Annotated Bibliography, 1962-1982*

**REF. GV1594 .F67**

Covers the areas of aesthetics, anthropology, education, history, literature, physiology, psychology and sociology as they pertain to dance. Includes references to articles, books, book-chapters, dissertations, and theses in English from 1965-1982.

*Dancers and Choreographers: A Selected Bibliography*

**REF. GV1785 .G48 1995**

References to books, articles, dissertations, and occasional publications dedicated to an individual. Entries arranged by artists and focuses largely on ballet and modern dance as covered in 20<sup>th</sup> century publications in English. Popular magazines such as *Dance Magazine* and *Dancing Times* are excluded. Includes a list of general reference works.

*Research in Dance v.4*

**REF. GV1593 .R48**

Reports on doctoral-level research in dance and dance-related areas. Contains references to approximately 550 dissertations from 1900-1990.

*Research in Dance: A Guide to Resources*

**REF. GV1594 .B6 1994**

A reference to dance information in both electronic and print form, covering all forms of dance as well as activities that include teaching, writing reviews and essays, or conducting studies in dance kinesiology. All types of sources are cited, including encyclopedias, film and video catalogs, manuals, indexes, serial publications, and sources for book and performance reviews. The focus is on English-language sources.