



Art History Research Model

Always start with the specific thing you are looking for

But what if you can't find any books or articles specifically about a subject?

When you can't find something specific, you need to go broader, in any combination of categories, using the journalism rule of "who, what, when, where, why."

Most specific = Mona Lisa

Who who = the artist
for this work = Leonardo da Vinci

What what = what is the physical form
for this work = painting

When when = style or time period
for this work = renaissance
note: for 17th-21st century works, you will often have a style and/or the century the work was from.

Where where = where the work was created
for this work = italy
where = nationality of the artist
for this work = italian
where = where the work is now
for this work = louvre

Why why = what is the painting about (subject matter and/or genre)
for this work = portrait

Some possible keyword combinations for this work, from most specific to broadest:

mona lisa leonardo
leonardo da vinci
renaissance portrait painting italy
portrait painting renaissance
renaissance painting italy
renaissance painting
italian painting
paintings louvre
renaissance art