COLOR
A GUIDE TO RESOURCES IN THE CIA LIBRARY

FINDING BOOKS & EXHIBITION CATALOGS
Use the library’s ONLINE CATALOG to search by SUBJECT or KEYWORD to find books about color.

There are two ways to spell color in the English language: "colour" is the common British spelling. Our catalog uses the American spelling "color." When performing a KEYWORD search or using a book index or encyclopedias, you may have to look under both spellings.

There are many different aspects to color. To find items use the following terms when doing a SUBJECT search:

COLOR (for general or theoretical aspects or as related to painting)
COLOR GUIDES (such as color terms color sources)
COLOR IN ART
COLOR - PSYCHOLOGICAL ASPECTS
COLOR VISION (like color perception or color sense)
COLORS (such as individual colors as well as general information about color)
LIGHT IN ART
PIGMENTS
VISION
VISUAL PERCEPTION

To look up information about the use of specific colors in art, add the phrase "in art" to the color and search as a SUBJECT. (Example: "Black in art" or "White in art.")

CALL NUMBERS FOR BROWSING
If you prefer to browse, you can look in these areas for books on color:

BF/789/.C7 – psychological aspects of color
ND/1486-ND/1495 – color in painting
QC/494-QC/1496.9 – scientific aspects (physics) of color
QP/483 – color vision or perception

COLOR THEORISTS
For works written by famous color theorists such as Josef Albers, Faber Birren, Michel Eugene Chevreul, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, Johannes Itten, & Albert Munsell use the AUTHOR search. For information about them, use the SUBJECT or KEYWORD search.

FINDING PERIODICAL ARTICLES
The same search strategies work when using the databases & indexes listed in the “Find Articles” section of the library’s website. Start your search with Art Source. More databases are available through the CIA library, as well as through OhioLINK’s databases. OhioLINK databases are only available on campus. You should start with OhioLINK’s subject grouping of databases to find the most appropriate index or database for your topic.
SOME IMPORTANT COLOR REFERENCE MATERIALS

The color subject entry from Oxford Art Online provides a good introduction to the interpretation and schemes of color in different cultures and provides cross reference to the scientific aspects of color (such as color interaction, perception, pigment, dye, etc.) as well as the artistic aspects (such as perspective, aesthetics, Impressionism, Post-impressionism, etc.).

Interaction of Color was written by influential painter-teacher & color theorist Josef Albers and has been called a "poetic distillation" of the color principles he taught. CIA owns the original limited edition copy (in Special Collections) and several reprint copies which circulate. There is also an iPad app for the Interaction of Color as well.

Atlas of the Munsell Color System was written by American art instructor & painter, Albert H. Munsell. He discusses color scientifically & defines color in terms of hue, value and chroma. The Institute’s copy of the 1915 version of this work is in Special Collections.

WEBSITES

You will also find some useful information on the Web. When using web resources, always remember to look at who created the site and when it was last updated to help you determine its accuracy and usefulness.

There are many interesting websites that discusses color, including:
- The Munsell Color Science Laboratory at RIT
- Color Matters

iPad App

Color Uncovered is an interactive iPad app that was developed by the Exploratorium. It is regularly updated and includes information and experiments.

Interaction of Color The interactive version of the book is available for iPad. There is a free and a full paid version. It allows for interaction and experimentation.

LIBRARY LINKS

The library’s online catalog & resources are available to CIA students, faculty and staff anytime, on any computer, from anywhere.

STILL CAN’T FIND ANYTHING? Ask the library staff for help.

cia.edu/library
referencehelp@cia.edu