

Works in the Art Institute of Chicago's collections can be found by entering either the museum accession number in the Repository Number field, or by entering the museum's name in the Repository or Collection field. Works from other museums and private collections can also be found in this way.

Dates in the Creation Date field are NOT indexed in the current MDID database. A search using this field may be incomplete or misleading, since a date within a span of dates will not be show up in your search results. For example, searching for 1766 in the Creation Date field will not return a work created in 1759-1850.

However, you can use the broad Period field to search spans of creation dates like centuries, periods or dynasties.

The Work sub-type "Documentary photographs" entered with a keyword will search for images of PEOPLE, EVENTS or PERFORMANCES.

Searching Across Collections

To search across collections, check the names of the collections to be searched at the top of the screen.

If searching across more than one collection, only a Keyword search field will appear. Enter a term or terms which will be searched across all the indexed fields in all the collections you selected.

Using Browse

For comprehensive instructions on Using Browse, consult the MDID Users Guide, page 14.

Use the Browse function to easily survey the scope and content of the image collection, especially for artists and cultures.

Use the Browse function if you are uncertain how to spell an artist's name, repository or collection name, culture, etc.

The Other link at the end of the alphabet under each pull-down field name under Browse will contain any term which begins with a punctuation mark, number or a letter with a diacritical mark.

If you are unsure how a pull-down term is being defined, you can find most definitions in the Getty's Art and Architecture Thesaurus Online
http://www.getty.edu/research/conducting_research/vocabularies/aat/

Interpreting Browse and Search Results

For comprehensive instructions on Viewing Browse and Search Results, consult the MDID Users Guide, page 22.

If sorting your search results by Creation Date, works that have a circa date are AFTER those without. For example, c.1932 follows AFTER 1900 in the sort list.

Expanding a cataloging record by choosing Show **more** Information at the top of the results screen may provide additional terms with which to make more in-depth searches.

When sorting your search results by Title, leading definite articles (eg., The, A, An, etc.) are NOT eliminated when sorting alphabetically. For example, "The Apple" would be found with other records sorted alphabetically with "T" rather than "A".