

# Get on the Bus: Image Searching

Erin Wilkins  
Albany County Public Library

[ewilkins@will.state.wy.us](mailto:ewilkins@will.state.wy.us)

# Issues Specific to Image Searching

- "I'm looking for an image of sunlight streaming through a windowpane on a rainy day."
  - Subjectivity, translating visual concepts into words.
- "I need an image of a painting by some guy. The one with the ballerina."
  - The needle in the haystack.
- "I have this image, and I don't know what it depicts. Help?"
  - Visual literacy, determining iconography

# Good Starting Places: General Searches

- Google Image Search and Google Image Swirl (a discovery tool)  
<http://images.google.com/>
- WYLDCCat and other catalogs: include "chiefly ill." or "ill." in keyword search
- idée Labs (search by color and/or keywords)  
<http://labs.ideeinc.com/>
- Photosynth (explore photos in 3D)  
<http://photosynth.net/default.aspx>

# (Art) Historical Images

- LOC's American Memory (photos, maps, ads, ephemera)  
<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/index.html>
- Heilbrunn Timeline of Art History (worldwide in scope)  
<http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/>
- ARTstor (requires institutional affiliation)

# Iconographies: Detective Work

- Symbols of the Saints in Art (can search by name or symbol)  
<http://www.fisheaters.com/saintsart.html>
- Theoi Greek Mythology (myths and accompanying images)  
<http://www.theoi.com/>
- Subject-specific reference books  
[http://www-sul.stanford.edu/depts/art/research\\_help/bib\\_lib/](http://www-sul.stanford.edu/depts/art/research_help/bib_lib/)  
(Art Encyclopedias and Iconography sections)

# And So Much More

- Art History Resources on the Web (the motherlode)  
<http://witcombe.sbc.edu/ARTHLinks.html>
- Artcyclopedia (another huge, multi-purpose database)  
<http://www.artcyclopedia.com/>
- Getty's Union List of Artist Names: ULAN (controlled vocabulary for artists' names)  
[http://www.getty.edu/research/conducting\\_research](http://www.getty.edu/research/conducting_research)