Listed below are a variety of print and web-based research resources helpful in answering all kinds of media reference queries. Researchers can find credits, synopses, or distribution sources for films and tapes; locate works by subject; find contact information for directors, actors, and other industry professionals; locate books and articles on specific films or videos, individuals, film history, or related subjects; or find general information on everything from film festivals to how to define a tracking shot. On this page you will find resources organized by the type of question they are most helpful in answering. Full citations for the publications mentioned are on the attached bibliography.

All of these resource are available at the Pacific Film Archive Library, open 1:00 – 5:00 Monday through Thursday. Many of them will also be available in public and academic libraries.

General resources for any of the categories below:

- Online catalogs – Many library websites (see list on attached bibliography) will provide catalogs to individual library collections as well as access to electronic indexes of journal articles, cd-rom collections, digital collections and other very useful resources. Use of some of these resources is restricted.
- RLG Union Catalog – database for primary resources such as manuscript collections; use may be restricted: http://www.rlg.org. RLG, which has recently merged with OCLC (www.oclc.org) is also developing RLG Cultural Materials, an online image database of primary source material from many international repositories, available at http://culturalmaterials.rlg.org. RLG also offers researchers an easy-to-use web interface at http://redlightgreen.com.
- ArchivesUSA – online directory of 5,500 repositories and 141,178 collections of primary source material across the United States; use may be restricted: http://archives.chadwyck.com.
- UCB Media Resources Center website: http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/MRC/ -- a wealth of resources for film studies, including bibliographies and articles.
- Periodical Indices -- see list below
- Macmillan Film Bibliography -- references to pre-1980 books and book chapters on films, people, and subjects.

Specific research resources useful in locating information on films:

- Film reviews -- for credits, synopsis, reception on original release
  
  New York Times Film Reviews
  Variety Film Reviews
  Expanded Academic ASAP: database of general periodical articles and citations; accessible via many university and public library websites.
- American Film Institute Catalog -- for lengthy credits and synopsis, subject keyword access, occasional citations to reviews. http://afi.chadwyck.com; available by subscription.
- Film Index International - Database of credits, synopsis, citations to reviews and articles. http://fii.chadwyck.com; available by subscription.
- Macmillan Film Bibliography -- pre-1980 reviews and references to book chapters on films, people, and subjects.

updated 8/06
• **International Dictionary of Films and Filmmakers** -- "Films" volume includes credits, synopsis and critical essays as well as citations to books and articles.

• **Internet Movie Database** [http://www.imdb.com](http://www.imdb.com) (may be less accurate/trustworthy than more scholarly sources).

• Periodical indexes in print and electronic form:
  - *Film Index International*
  - *FIAF International Film Archive Database* -- includes *International Index to Film/TV Periodicals*, covering world film periodicals, 1972 – present.
  - *Film Literature Index* -- 1973 to the present; annual cumulations.
  - *Film Review Index* -- index to reviews and analysis from trade papers, periodicals and books, to 1985.
  - *The Film Index: a bibliography* -- citations to both books and articles on films; pre-1940.

Information on a particular **personality**:

• **Biographical Dictionaries**
  - *International Dictionary of Films and Filmmakers* -- Volumes on Actors and Actresses, Directors, and Writers and Production Artists all include brief biographical notes, bibliographies of articles by and about the individual, credits, and critical essays.
  - *A Biographical Dictionary of Film* (Thomson)
  - *The Film Encyclopedia* (Katz)
  - *Who Was Who on Screen* (Truitt) -- Particularly useful for complete credits on lesser-known silent-era actors and actresses.
  - *World Film Directors* (Wakeman)

• **Periodical Indexes** (see list above)

Information on a **film studio**:

• **Periodical Indexes** (see list above)

• *New Historical Dictionary of the American Film Industry* (Slide)

• **Macmillan Film Bibliography**

• *Motion Pictures, Television and Radio: a union catalog of manuscript and special collections in the Western United States* (Mehr)

• **Directory of International Film and TV Documentation Collections** (on FIAF International Film Archive Database)

• **RLG Union Catalog** or **ArchivesUSA** for archival/manuscript collections.

**Statistics**:

• **NATO Encyclopedia of Exhibition** -- Film Exhibition statistics; demographics of theater-goers, statistics on studio releases by year, etc. Very well organized and useful.


• **Baseline** -- www.baseline.hollywood.com. Subscription database with extensive information on the Hollywood film industry, statistics, contact information, etc.

• **International Motion Picture Almanac** -- Some box office and industry statistics as well as brief biographical and filmographical information.
SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY OF MEDIA REFERENCE SOURCES

BIBLIOGRAPHIC GUIDES


BIBLIOGRAPHIES


INDICES


FIAF International FilmArchive Database.  (Includes International Index to Film/TV Periodicals; Treasures from the Film Archives; International Directory of Film and Television Documentation Collections; and Bibliography of FIAF Members’ Publications). International Federation of Film Archives and Ovid, 2004 <http://www.ovid.com> (available by subscription) (as of Fall 2006, also available by subscription from proquest: www.proquest.com/products_pq.descriptions/fiaf.shtml)


---International Index to Film Periodicals: an annotated guide.  Brussels: International Federation of Film Archives (current publishers) 1972--.


CATALOGS

---American Film Institute Catalog. American Film Institute and Chadwyck-Healey. 2004-- (available by subscription <http://afi.chadwyck.com>.)


Walsh, Gregory, ed. Motion Picture Scripts: A Union List. Los Angeles: Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, 1998--.

REVIEWS


BIOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARIES


DIRECTORIES

---Academy Players Directory. Beverly Hills, California: Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, 1937--.


DISTRIBUTION AND FOOTAGE SOURCES


SUBJECT FILMOGRAPHIES


**ANNUALS**

--- Variety International Film Guide.  South Brunswick and New York: A.S. Barnes and Co., Inc. 1964--.

--- International Motion Picture Almanac.  New York: Quigley Publications, 1936--.


**ENCYCLOPEDIAS AND GENERAL WORKS**


MEDIA RESOURCES ON THE WEB

There are thousands of media-related sites on the World Wide Web, ranging from databases of reviews and directories of industry personnel and events to film studio promotional sites and calendars for individual cinemas and festivals. Listed here is a small sampling of the kinds of resources available.

Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive  http://www.bampfa.berkeley.edu
Includes CineFiles - a database of reviews, press kits, festival and showcase program notes, newspaper articles, and other documents from the PFA Library's clippings files, the PFA Filmnotes - over 12,000 film notes from past PFA exhibition calendars, and the Pacific Film Archive Calendar - what's playing at the PFA. Also has online catalogs for BAM/PFA’s collections including films, videos, art, and books.

Film and Video Resources
The sites below include sources for locating reviews, credits, organizations, and industry personnel.

Art on Film  http://www.artfilm.org
Films on art, architecture and photography, with synopses and distribution information.

Contact information for industry professionals, as well as credits, film synopses, bios, and awards. Available by subscription.

Cinema Sites  http://www.cinema-sites.com
Annotated index of movie and tv sources designed to help users get a handle on the vast number of media-related web resources.

The Film Festivals Server  http://www.filmfestivals.com
International film festival calendar, also programs and historical information.

Flicker  http://www.hi-beam.net/cgi-bin/flicker.pl
Home page for the alternative cinematic experience. Includes links to many other sites concerning independent and experimental media.

Internet Movie Database  http://www.imdb.com
Features credits and synopses of thousands of films made from the beginning of the century to the present.

Movie Review Query Engine  http://www.mrqe.com
Links to over 325,000 film reviews on over 32,500 films. Includes links to many individuals’ sites, as well as publishers’ sites.

Moving Image Gateway  http://www.bufvc.ac.uk/gateway/index.html
Created by the British Universities Film and Video Council, this site describes “websites that relate to moving images and sound and their use in higher education.”

UC Berkeley Media Resources Center  http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/mrc
Has a wealth of bibliographic information on film studies, including lists of books and articles by subject; links to periodical article databases, electronic cinema studies journals, film credits databases, and other web resources; information on distributors, and even some online video and audio works.

Variety.com  http://www.variety.com
In addition to providing the electronic version of the trade paper Variety, this site offers links to many film production directories, statistical charts, and other industry sites, as well as a searchable archive of past Variety issues. Many features are only available by subscription.

**Film and Video Distributors and Sources**

A few major sources for film and video sales and rentals are listed below. Many additional distribution companies and video stores also have web sites. See the UCB Media Resources Center site (www.lib.berkeley.edu/MRC) for an in-depth list of distributors.

Also listed here are sites and union catalogs to help locate archival and historical film, as well as stock footage.

Facets Multimedia  http://www.facets.org
One of the largest rent-by-mail sources for contemporary and classic videos.

Footage.net – the stock, archival & news footage network  http://www.footage.net
Provides access to the combined databases of 26 international stock, archival, and news footage collections. Collections include CNN Image Source, National Geographic, WPA Film Library, BBC Worldwide Library Sales, NBC News Archives, and many others.

Independent Television Service (ITVS)  http://www.itvs.org
ITVS was established by Congress to help bring independently produced programs to television. The ITVS website includes information on home video and education distribution sources for many of the programs it has funded.

Moving Image Collections  http://mic.imtc.gatech.edu/
This ambitious site, sponsored by the Association of Moving Image Archivists and the Library of Congress, includes an “integrated online catalog of moving images, with an archive directory and links to resources on moving images and moving image preservation.” Currently in development.

Television News Archive. Vanderbilt University.  http://tvnews.vanderbilt.edu/
Catalog to their collection of over 30,000 network news broadcasts from NBC, ABC, CBS, and CNN, as well as 9,000 hours of special news-related programming.

Video Oyster http://www.VideoOyster.com
Sells over 7,000 rare videos.

**Moving Image Associations**

Association of Independent Video and Filmmakers:  http://www.aivf.org
Membership organization that “supports independent producers and advocates for the media arts field”. They publish the journal The Independent, as well as books on independent filmmaking and directories of distributors and festivals.

**Association of Moving Image Archivists:** [http://www.amianet.org](http://www.amianet.org)
Membership organization for individuals and institutions concerned with the preservation of moving images. AMIA holds an annual conference and works to develop standards and plans for national moving image preservation.

**Bay Area Video Coalition** [http://www.bavc.org](http://www.bavc.org)
San Francisco membership organization for video and new media.

**Federation International des Archives du Film (FIAF):** [http://www.fiafnet.org](http://www.fiafnet.org)
FIAF, the International Federation of Film Archives, brings together institutions dedicated to rescuing films both as cultural heritage and as historical documents. It holds an annual Congress; publishes tools to aid in film preservation, exhibition and study; and promotes the rescue, preservation, collection, and exhibition of moving images.

**Film Arts Foundation** [http://www.filmarts.org](http://www.filmarts.org)
Bay Area membership organization for independent filmmakers.

**Libraries**

Library websites provide a wealth of information beyond their own organization’s catalogs. Many will include numerous electronic resources, links to national and international union catalogs, digital image databases, online archives, and more.

**California Digital Library** [http://www.cdlib.org](http://www.cdlib.org)
Includes MELVYL, the online catalog for the entire University of California system, as well as the Online Archive of California, online articles databases and reference works, and other resources. Some databases are restricted to use by UC affiliates.

**Libweb: Library Servers via WWW** [http://lists.webjunction.org/libweb/](http://lists.webjunction.org/libweb/)
Libweb currently lists over 7,400 pages from libraries in over 125 countries.

**Library of Congress** [http://www.loc.gov](http://www.loc.gov)

**New York Public Library** [http://www.nypl.org](http://www.nypl.org)

**New York University Libraries** [http://library.nyu.edu/](http://library.nyu.edu/)