

Artwork Provenance and Accession Number Research Assignment

Purpose: To learn about the ownership of an artwork and how it came into a museum's collection, while also learning ways of searching (by accession number).

- Learn about the importance of provenance for individual artworks.
- Learn about the importance of accession numbers to easily locate an artwork within a museum's collection.





Technology needed: computer, Internet connection, word processing software, database accessibility (preferably to Bénézit).

Assignment: Please watch the short tutorial on completing this research assignment here: <http://www.screencast.com/t/QPsrxQ3h>

Log into Bénézit (or perform a general Internet search if there is no access to Bénézit) to locate the museum that holds each piece of artwork listed in the table on the next page. Find the museum's website and conduct a search for the same artwork's object record. Complete the table by filling in the following information: museum collection, accession number, provenance, and link to museum's object record.

Once the table is complete, answer the following questions:

1. What was the process for finding provenance information for two (2) of the institutions?
2. Was this information easily accessible from the object record?
3. Were there any similarities to the provenance information for any of the exemplar artworks? (donors, owners, collections, bequests,)
4. Are the accession numbers similar for each institution or does their format vary?
5. Can you easily search on Google by accession number for an artwork or is other information needed?
6. Is it easy to find an artwork by accession number directly on the institution's website?
7. Do you think accession numbers are used mostly by the general public, researchers, or employees of the museum? Why?

#	Artist	Title	Image	Museum Collection	Accession Number	Provenance	Link to Museum's Object Record
1	Pablo Picasso	<i>Les Demoiselles d'Avignon</i>					
2	Alfred Stieglitz	<i>Georgia O'Keeffe – Neck</i>					
3	Jean-Auguste-Dominique Ingres	<i>Comtesse d'Haussonville</i>					
4	Andy Warhol	<i>Marilyn Diptych</i>					
5	Louis Comfort Tiffany	<i>A Wooded Landscape in Three Panels</i>	