

Lauren Bell
ABC Proposal for Midterm

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.

Intended audience: college-level students in a beginning art history or museum studies course.

Education objectives: learn about provenance and accession numbers, research skills for general searching using a search engine, museum website, and educational databases.

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

Assignment: Students will be given basic information about artworks, including an image, artist, and title. They will need to search by artist name in Bénézit (or general Internet if there is no access to Bénézit) to find the museum that holds the piece of artwork. Once the object record is located on the correct museum collection's website, students will compile a list and make a table of the artwork's title, artist, museum collection, accession number, provenance, and link to museum's object record.

Students will also answer some general debriefing questions at the end of their research:

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

Potential slides for presentation:

Introduction/Purpose

What is provenance?

What is an accession number?

Why are they important?

Assignment

A few exemplar artworks with title, artist, and image

Debriefing questions