

Online research help

*Notes prepared for a reference request, Teresa Schmidt, Mercer Public Library
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Places to look up antiques sale prices

Heritage Auctions – ha.com – Requires free account to see sale prices from online auctions.

Live Auctioneers – liveauctioneers.com – Auction Price Results Database links to databases of online and live auction houses. Requires free account to search.

Sotheby's – <http://www.sothebys.com/en/buy/lot-archive> – Free search of past lot archive. No login required.

Christie's – <https://www.christies.com/Results> – Search upcoming auctions and past lots. No login required.

Ebay – <https://www.ebay.com/sch/ebayadvsearch> – Enter search terms and select the “sold listings” box to see prices that items actually sold for.

Kovels – <https://www.kovels.com/> – Offers some information for free, but values/prices require an account. Offers free 7-day trial, plans start at \$29.99/year.

Worth Point – <https://www.worthpoint.com/> – Price guide, research guides. Free trial, then \$24-40/month.

Helpful guide for different types of antiques:

https://antiques.lovetoknow.com/Free_Online_Antique_Price_Guide – links to other sites, both free and paid.

For background information

Google – www.google.com – For general searches by artist name or keyword

Smithsonian American Art Museum – <https://americanart.si.edu/art/highlights/folk> – Includes searchable database of artists included in the SAAM collections.

Wikipedia – <https://en.wikipedia.org/> – Useful for most well-known artists, hit-or-miss on others

Wikipedia list of Federal Art Project artists –

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Federal_Art_Project_artists

Folk Art Society of America – <https://folkart.org/>

American Folk Art Museum – <https://folkartmuseum.org/>

State historical museums: Useful for local artists, WPA projects, etc.

- **Wisconsin Historical Society** – <https://www.wisconsinhistory.org/> – includes a searchable database of all items cataloged at WHS
- **Minnesota Historical Society collections search** – <http://search.mnhs.org/>

Google Search tips

- Use quotes around an artist's name to narrow search results: "Marie Bleck"
- Search a specific site using Google: `site:wisconsinhistory.org folk art`
- Use `-` to eliminate words from your search: `Mustang -car`
- Searching is an iterative process: Start with a simple search, then refine your search terms as you learn from the results.