

The rich resources provided by Loyola Marymount University's William H. Hannon Library were invaluable to developing ideas for my Junior/Senior Seminar in Art History thesis. My essay, "Saving Church, City, and Soul: Sanctuary Mosaics at S. Prassede, S. Cecilia in Trastevere and S. Maria in Domnica in Rome," is a product of the library's commitment to providing students with ready access to research tools and academic texts, spanning even beyond the library's physical structure. I was able to generate a scholarly essay by taking full advantage of the Hannon Library's services, resources, and collections, particularly the guidance of Outreach Librarian Jamie Hazlitt, the library's collection and access to other universities' collections via LINK+ and Interlibrary Loan (ILL), and the research databases providing access to academic articles.

My process of discovery began during a library research training session with Jamie Hazlitt. She introduced the ARHS 449: Early Christian and Medieval Rome LibGuide, which she and our professor had especially designed to outline useful research and writing tools for our course. The list of databases with articles pertinent to Art History, most notably JSTOR; the introduction to ArtStor, which allowed me to examine sanctuary mosaics closely; and the "Cite Your Sources" tips were vital to the development and completion of my paper. She also explained how to locate full texts for articles and find books not available in LMU's collection using WorldCat, LINK+, and ILL, which became useful to me soon after.

Once I knew my paper topic, which started out, quite broadly, as Pope Paschal I's commissions in the city of Rome, I was ready to use the tools Jamie had introduced. At this early stage, I needed to collect all the information I could about Paschal's papacy and his artistic commissions so that I might develop a strong thesis that would allow me to

focus my research on a specific aspect of the topic. I completed a broad search of the school's collection for books relating to the patronage of Paschal I. The school had records of two books that became important resources for my thesis: *The Rome of Pope Paschal I: Papal Power, Urban Renovation, Church Rebuilding and Relic Translation* by Caroline Goodson and *Image and Relics: Mediating the Sacred in Early Medieval Rome* by Erik Thunø. However, the first book had just recently been published, and LMU had not yet received its copy. LINK+ solved this issue, and I was able to get a copy of the book within a week.

While waiting for Goodson's book to arrive, I learned from my professor that Goodson had also written her doctoral thesis on Paschal's Roman church commissions. Unaware of how to locate the text, I sought Jamie's help. She told me about ProQuest's Dissertations and Theses Database, which allowed me to download Goodson's thesis instantaneously. While I did not use the text as a source for my paper, learning of ProQuest's ability to connect me with past and current graduate-level research was a useful discovery for my future studies.

Researching for my thesis provided me with a number of other lessons that will aid my research process in the future. For example, while some books or articles ended up not pertaining to my topic, their bibliographies often led me to more relevant sources. I also realized the great extent to which art historians are in dialogue with one another, often referring to each other's findings in their own research, which, subsequently, led me to new sources. Goodson's bibliographies, in particular, guided me to authors and specific articles I later located on JSTOR. As a side note, I was quite fortunate my sources did not contradict one another but often validated and built upon one another.

For example, Goodson strength as a resource was not only validated by my professor's positive mention of her work but also by her incorporation of Richard Krautheimer's findings, which we had discussed in class as a valuable resource. This led me to seek and include four of her writings. In addition, each source has the potential of providing a new perspective on and inspiring new questions to ask of my topic; and, as Jamie Hazlitt's suggested, asking different questions of your topic can result in new search phases that return a vastly different list of results. Finally, I learned that, if I am lost, a librarian at Hannon Library has the experience, knowledge, and patience to point me in a helpful direction.