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JUDGING, SIXTH EDITION
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WE think

ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF WOMEN EXHIBITORS

The newly released Manual of Philatelic Judging Sixth Edition is now available as a free download from the APS website. Have you read it yet? Download it for free from www.stamps.org

Manual of Philatelic Judging, 6th Edition reviewed

By Vesma Grinfelds

Overview

Upon embarking on the endeavor of reading the entirety of the Sixth Edition of the Manual of Philatelic Judging, I was, at first, daunted by the number of pages to be absorbed. Immediately, I was impressed with the consistency of the format and the ease of potential use by exhibitors and jurors. Having downloaded and printed the 119 pages for personal use, the pages fit nicely into a 1 inch binder for future use and reference. Prior Version 5 (pocket size) started coming apart at the inseam at first use so this new format is much more versatile.

I found myself reading the manual from both of my philatelic perspectives: both as an exhibitor and as a regional juror.

There were times when I re-read sections from both approaches. From the perspective of a juror, I appreciated the clear and defining identification of how and what to judge. From the perspective of an exhibitor, I was given clear direction on how to organize and present a subject. I was explained what would be judged and in what manner.

Immediately, I looked forward to having a glossary. Nebulous terms such as: importance, relevance and treatment have always bothered me as I was not sure what they "exactly" meant. Those terms seemed to be an obvious escape for any jury when award levels were unclear. Within the first 5 chapters, I was able to find definition and some

AMERICAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY
Manual of Philatelic Judging
Sixth Edition

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The *Manual of Philatelic Judging 6th Edition* is available on the APS website as a free download pdf file.
Link: <http://stamps.org/directories/JudgingManual.pdf>

clarify. Judging criteria was defined in an organized manner.

The use of chapter sub-headings and highlighted words/phrases was clearly helpful; the consistency of this format was appreciated.

This latest version of the Judging Manual has useful "How To's" and "What Not to Do's". The guidelines on synopsis pages should prove helpful to both novice and more experienced exhibitors.

In numerous ways, this manual is nearly a “How To Exhibit” reference work. Perhaps, too much guidance and hints are presented. I was unsure if this was the correct venue to be an exhibiting workshop. But, an exhibitor reading this Manual should find much useful help. On the other hand, I was not sure if these exhibitor guidelines were treated equally in terms of depth. Some chapters had very specific examples of “do’s” and “don’ts” while others remained somewhat empty. Should the Judging Manual be a treatise on “How to Present Philatelic Material”? OR present a standard of How to a Judge Philatelic Exhibition?

New Information

New and different information was presented in this 6th Edition which seemed different from earlier versions.

- A new judging form was introduced (UEEF). This requires the jury to write substantial thoughts about positive and negative features of ALL exhibits. The exhibitor should leave any exhibition with feedback on which they can strive to improve their exhibit.
- There is an updated explanation of criteria (different from prior versions).
- The “Special Studies” category has been eliminated! Everything should fit into other categories.
- Every WSP Show must offer a Grand Award for a Single Frame exhibit.
- Exhibits entered in WSP events will be judged on “completeness”. Page 12 even notes: “Are any important items missing?” (Pg. 12) Are “Key Items” present” (Pg. 13). This is a huge change from prior standards! Before, WSP jurors judged exhibits on items which were present and NOT what was missing. This was in contrast to International standards. There seems to have been a swing to bring international judging standards to WSP Shows.
- For the display class of exhibiting, there is a clear change – there is no percentage of “non-philatelic” material usage in an exhibit.

Difficulties

Definitions of key judging criteria have changed due to new definitions of the concepts; granted that the terms are difficult to describe and quantify. Personally, I found

that my understanding of “relevance” and “treatment” (for example) became understandable and applicable. On the other hand, “importance” with all of its new definitions (philatelic vs. subject) is still unclear.

- The new definition of “importance” is still judgmental
- Are thematic exhibits ever “important”? Are FDC exhibits “important”? These questions are posed no matter whether addressing Philatelic or Subject “Importance”.
- A bias toward early, pricey still prevails with this definition
- A single frame Grand Award need be given even if there is only 1 Single Frame entry? Huh? Did I read that correctly? Several times, it is expressed that multi-frame exhibits covering a longer span of time are more important than that of a shorter span. Broad subject areas are favored over those with a narrower scope. Has a built-in bias been created?

Conclusion

Clearly, NEW definitions of judging criteria for WSP have been created. This manual is an upgrade from previous versions which were non-specific in defining standards. Granted, judging philatelic exhibits is a subjective endeavor! This manual should aid in specifying the requirements to a successful endeavor.

On the other hand, with the more specific definitions, is this an attempt to “upgrade” judging standards or to reduce the number of Gold Medals awarded? There has been an explosion of Gold Medals in WSP events in the last decade. Much of this can likely be attributed to the work and membership of the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors (AAPE).

This is an important work to be read with equal gusto by jurors and exhibitors defining exhibiting standards. The new definitions and criteria affect all of us – exhibitors and jurors.

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This is a publication of WE — Women Exhibitors — Whose mission is to be the vehicle through which women exhibitors can encourage each other through sharing information, ideas, experience, advice, problems, and solutions.
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“The things which are most important don’t always scream the loudest.”

Research in Philately

By Charles Verge

From PowerPoint presentation given at the Festival for Philatelic Women 2009

Researching in Philately

- “To research a subject” suggests something relatively in-depth.
- “To do research on a subject” suggests little or partial research.

“To research a subject” suggests something relatively in-depth.

“To do research on a subject” suggests little or partial research.

Getting Started

- First you need a plan
- Define your scope or question
- Decide what sources of information you can use (make a list)
- Locate your sources
- Start reading, printing, taking notes
- Organize your data / File your paper

Organizing your Thoughts

- Focus on your topic & focus again & again. “The purpose of this exhibit is to ...”
- Brainstorm ideas / List key words
- What should you look up first? Overview
- Write up what you already know, what you want to know, how you will find out and what you learned
- Organize your information by chapter
- Keep track of your sources

Using the Right Information Tool

- You have lot of choices
- What sources should you use?
- Find the sources
- Primary and Secondary Sources
- Internet, Web Sites, Search Engines!!!
- Original Research
- Knowledge
- Personal Study

Important Sources of Info

- Your brain
- Your experience
- The Internet
- Libraries: Local / APRL
- Newspapers & Mags
- Philatelic Mags & Newsletters
- Archives: Family / National
- Photos, Films & Videos
- Dictionaries & Encycl.
- Government Institutions & NGOs
- Professional & Trade Associations
- Doctors, Lawyers & Candlestick makers
- Personal Interviews
- Specialized stamp catalogues
- Travel Guides and Brochures
- Museums & Historical Societies
- Other Collectors / Stamp Dealers
- Exhibits

Completing Your Project

- Read the rules: APS Manual of Judging / FIP
- Write-up your exhibit: Introduction / Body / Conclusion

- Known vs. Reported vs. Recorded
- Don't forget to cite your sources when required (Exhibit / Synopsis / Title Page)
- Proofread it and then get someone else to do it.
- Spell Check is not the answer
- Avoid plagiarism

In Conclusion

- Open your mind to all possibilities
- No source is too archaic or too small
- Follow the trail there might be a pot of gold
- Do the basics first / Don't overdo
- Remember the rules. The litmus test
- If you get frustrated don't give up another door will open

*Coming in
May 2010*

*WE FEST 2!
Denver, Colorado
In conjunction
with
Rocky Mountain
Stamp Show*

Watch for details

“An injury is much sooner forgotten than an insult.”

PHILIP DORMER STANHOPE

How to...

Optimize Google searches, Part 1

By Janet Klug

From PowerPoint presentation given at the Festival for Philatelic Women 2009

Google is more than just a search engine.

It also contains:

- Web content
- Images
- Scholarly papers
- Book search (searches full text)
- Video
- More is being added all the time!

Most Google users just use the Google search box to search the web. Unfortunately, this frequently brings thousands of suggested “hits,” only a few of which may actually have the information you are seeking.

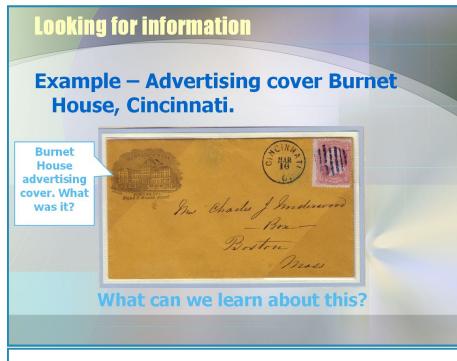


Figure 1. Advertising cover from Burnet House in Cincinnati.

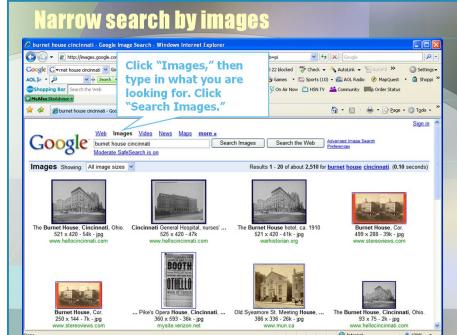


Figure 2. Instead of searching the web, click "Images" and look for images of Burnet House.

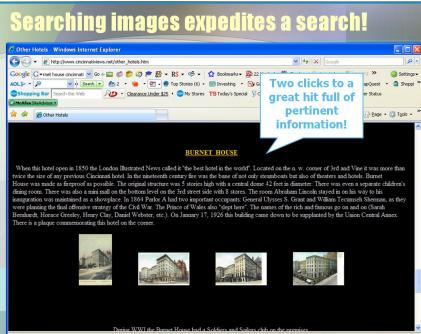


Figure 3. Searching images finds what you are seeking a LOT faster.

Look at the item shown in Figure 1. What can we learn about this item as quickly as possible?

Enter “Burnet House” in the Google search bar, but instead of clicking “Search,” click on the word “Images.” The search will return images that relate to your search terms. Click on any of the images that appear to be what you are seeking.

Figure 3 shows a website containing much information about Burnet House

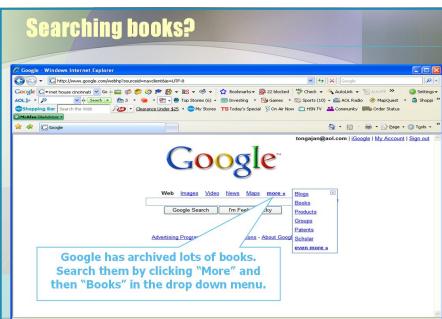


Figure 4. Instead of searching the web or searching images, you can also search "books." Click "More" and then win the drop-down menu, click "Books."

as well as images of the structure. By searching images, we were able to go directly to the information we wanted. Searching images expedites a search!

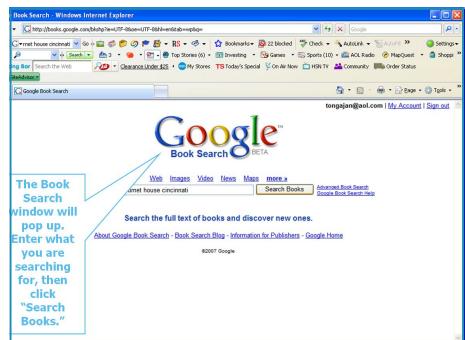


Figure 5. Google houses thousands of books online, available for you to search, read and download. Did I mention the magic word? Free!

Need more information? This time click “More” above the search bar. A drop-down menu appears. Click “Books.” Enter your search term into the Google search box and click “Search.”(Figure 4).

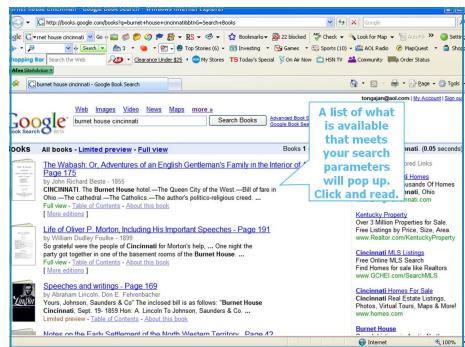


Figure 6. The Burnet House search in Google books suggests a title published in 1855...just the period we seek. Click that title.

Google books will return a number of suggestions. The first one sound great, so click on that. Figure 7 shows what Google returns. It is a page from the book, with the search terms highlighted in yellow.

Notice the links on the right side (Figure 8). Many of the Google books can be downloaded as pdf files for free. You

"The most essential factor is persistence — the determination never to allow your energy or enthusiasm to be dampened by the discouragement that must inevitably come."

JAMES WHITCOMB RILEY

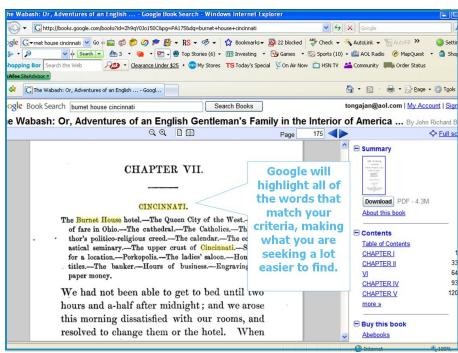


Figure 7. Google returns a page from the book in which the search terms are highlighted in yellow.

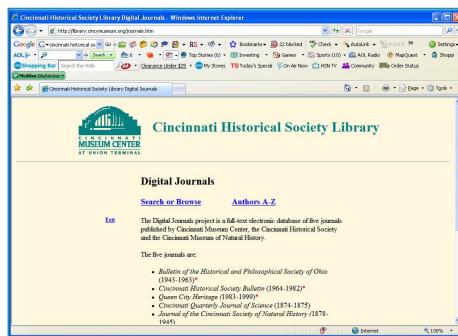


Figure 10. Check the website and see if there are archives you can access on the Internet.

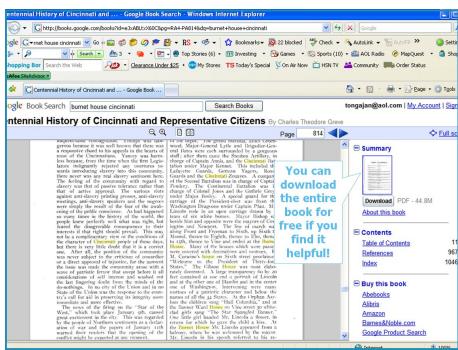


Figure 8. Many of the books resident in Google books may be downloaded for free.

can also search the entire book or just the table of contents. You can click a link to purchase the book from various vendors.

Museums and historical societies are good places to seek help for historical subjects. First you have to find them. Our Burnet House cover came from Cincinnati, so I Googled “Cincinnati Historical Society” (Figure 9).

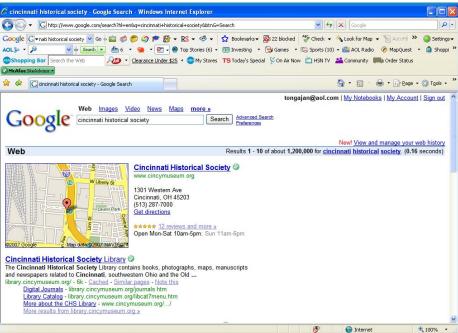


Figure 9. Searching the web for the Cincinnati Historical Society.

When you find a historical society or museum, click around the website and see what exhibits and archives they have available for viewing. You may be surprised at what you can find.

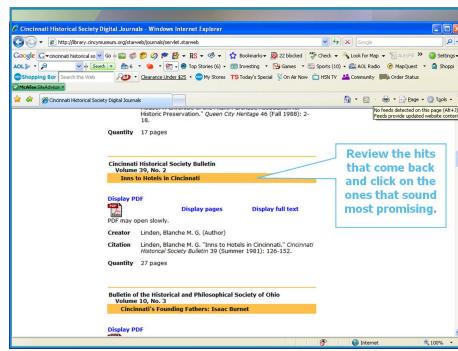


Figure 11. The Cincinnati Historical Society has archived the full run of several journals.

The Cincinnati Historical Society has many printed publications archived on its website, and they have made it easy to search them all by subject. I entered the search “Cincinnati hotels.”

That search netted several good suggestions. The first one was an article about Inns and Hotels in Cincinnati, published in the Cincinnati Historical Society Bulletin.

Click on that, and it takes you to a pdf file of the entire article that you can read page by page or download onto your computer’s hard drive or removable storage device. (Figure 11). Once again, it’s free!

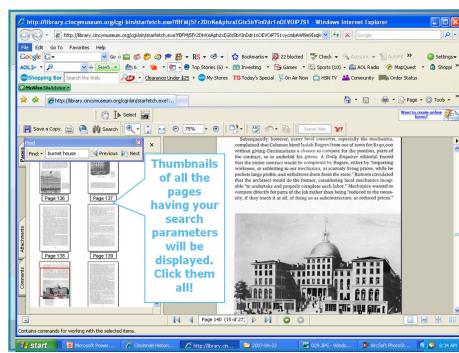


Figure 12. A quick scroll through the thumbnails of each page enables a quick find of an illustration of Burnet House.

It is easy to scroll through the article, read it online, or download it for later use.

Part 2 of this article will appear in the next issue. Topics: Collecting images from the web and searching for people.

This is your journal
Please share your
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Suggestions,
Gripes,
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Joys,
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New ideas,
Problems,
Solutions to problems,
Celebrations,
Disappointments
Questions,
Answers

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