The Irene Lewisohn Costume Reference Library
Fashion Resources

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The Met Fifth Avenue
1000 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10028

212-650-2225
For current Library hours visit us at metmuseum.org/art/libraries-and-research-centers/thomas-j-watson-library

Costume Institute Library and the Costume Institute Collection
- General information about The Costume Institute department can be found here.
- The Costume Institute's Irene Lewisohn Costume Library is accessible to qualified researchers by appointment only. Please contact CostumeInstitute.Library@metmuseum.org
- For any questions about garments, objects, or accessing the Costume Institute Collection, please contact CostumeInstitute.Collections@metmuseum.org

Press releases for Costume Institute exhibitions
Past and present press releases are available on the Met's website.

The Metropolitan Museum of Art's Timeline of Art History: Costume Institute Essay Collection
Thirty of the 41 essays displayed are written by curatorial staff in the Costume Institute

Watson Library Digital Collections - Costume Institute Collections
The Library Digital Collections' Costume Institute Collections include the following:
- Bergdorf Goodman fashion sketches, 1929-1952
- French fashions, 1895-1915
- Costume Institute exhibition binders, 1939- recent, including installation/gallery views, wall text, and label information
- Costume Institute Fashion Plates (1790-1939), from various publications, including women's, men's, children's, wedding dress, accessory fashion

Bloomsbury Fashion Central
(Available to visitors from **onsite only.** Museum staff, interns, fellows, and volunteer tour guides may access remotely or onsite)

The Bloomsbury Fashion Central platform includes the following databases:

Berg Fashion Library
- Covers 1600 to present. International in scope, Includes fashion accessories and jewelry
- Useful for verifying biographical information and terminology
- Includes full text access to the *Berg Encyclopedia of World Dress and Fashion*, *The Berg Companion to Fashion*, *The Dictionary of Fashion History*, e-books and journals, and museum collection images

Fashion Photography Archive
- Runway, backstage, and street style images by photographer Niall McInerney from international runway shows 1970s-early 2000s
- Over 400 designers including McQueen, Gaultier, Westwood, Chalayan, Galliano, and more.

Fashion Video Archive
- Runway video footage from YOOX NET-A-PORTER GROUP's Runway Archive Collections
- Covers 1973-2003 with full shows in Paris, Milan, London, and New York

Fashion and trade magazines via ProQuest
(Available to visitors from **onsite only.** Museum staff, interns, fellows, and volunteer tour guides may access remotely or onsite)

The ProQuest platform includes access to the following publications:

- Harper's Bazaar Archive: 1867 to present
- Vogue Archive (US): 1892 to present
- Vogue Italia Archive: 1964 to present
- Women's Wear Daily Archive: 1910 to material within last twelve months

For each of these resources, the "About" link will have a short history of the magazine and subject coverage.

The "Browse Issues" page will indicate the most recent issue digitized. Some issues have a list of fashion editors and their working dates. This section also allows you to look for a specific issue (e.g. April 15, 1967).

Sample search: "Cindy Crawford": You can modify your search results with the options on the left side of the screen and find out how many *Vogue* covers she has been on and how many times each photographer has photographed her.

Sample search: "Chanel": You can narrow your results to only advertising images, as well as specific brands and products such as Chanel No. 5 perfume.

Designer Files
Ephemera, tearsheets, press clippings, etc. In Watsonline, these files are marked "Department Use Only" but they can be viewed in Watson Library if a researcher inquires (a few folders). Folders with less than a dozen sheets can be scanned and emailed as a courtesy.
- Link to see all people/company files (call number search for "Costume File – People")
- Link to see all subject files (call number search for "Costume File – Subject")

Lookbook Collection
Catalogs of a designer's collection for a specific season, e.g. Chanel Fall-Winter 2002. These are requestable by the box by designer/brand name and time period (not individually cataloged).
    – Link to see all records

Costume Institute Records, *1937-2011*
Available by appointment only to qualified researchers via the Museum Archives.

The Costume Institute records document the organization's activities from the 1937 founding of its precursor, the Museum of Costume Art, through its 1946 merger with the Metropolitan Museum as The Costume Institute, its establishment as a curatorial department in 1959, and its production of exhibitions in the early 2000s. The largest volume of records document individual curators and administrators from 1937 through the early 2000s, exhibitions organized by the Museum of Costume Art at various locations and by The Costume Institute at the Metropolitan Museum from 1937 to 2008, Party of the Year administrative records from 1948 to 1970, and scrapbooks and publicity materials from 1948-2007.

Costume Institute Special Collections
The collections document European and American fashions from the late 19th through the early 21st centuries and complement the Museum's holdings in the Costume Institute and digital collections.
- Photograph collections
- Scrapbooks and ephemera collections
- Sketch collections
- Textile samples
- See the PDF here for the complete list of Costume Institute Library Special Collections materials with brief descriptions, size, and links to each finding aid

Instagram @costumeinstitutelibrary
- A look at The Costume Institute Library collection and the latest acquisitions, updated daily
- Each @costumeinstitutelibrary post has a Bitly URL link that can be copy/pasted into a web browser that leads to the Watsonline record for the specific book or object shown
- Specific library hashtag content: #CILDigitalCollections, #CILlookbooks, #CILSpecialCollections, #CILPeriodicals
- You do not need a smartphone or iPad! View from any browser: https://www.instagram.com/costumeinstitutelibrary/
- Also follow The Costume Institute department's main Instagram account @metcostumeinstitute

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