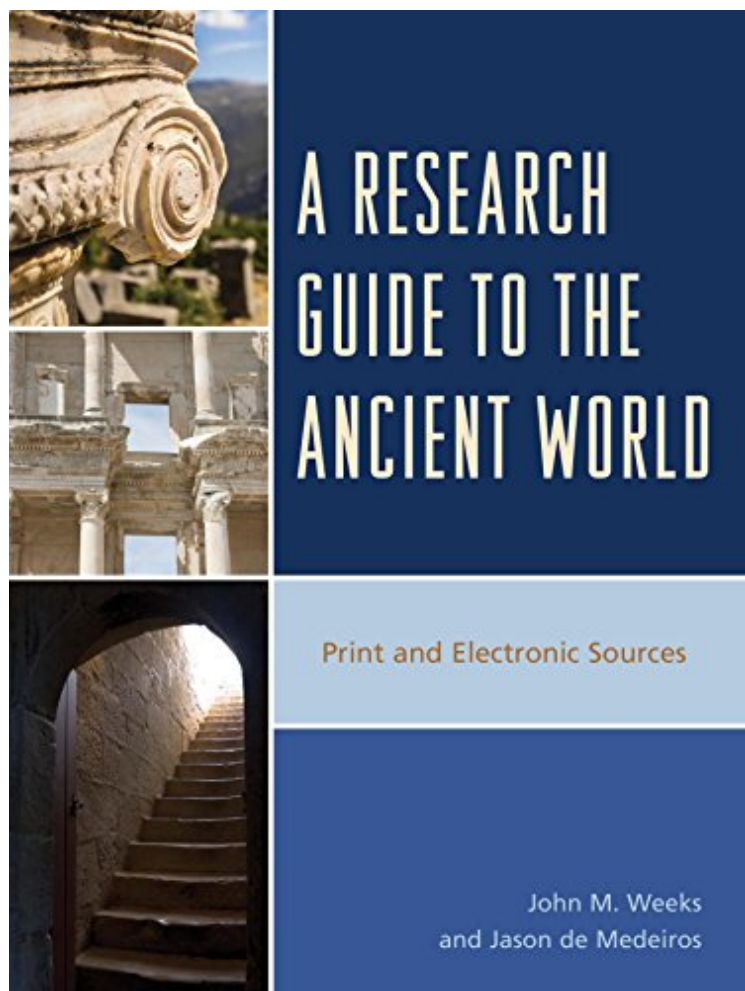



## A Research Guide to the Ancient World: Print and Electronic Sources

*John M. Weeks, Jason de Medeiros*

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before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Research Guide to the Ancient World: Print and Electronic Sources:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. and a researcher needs to have a good idea of what and where they are By Joseph Uphoff References are essential to any research project, and a researcher needs to have a good idea of what and where they are. This work attempts to provide such a guide. As such, I will highlight what is in each section with a few examples of note. The authors begin by defining the ancient world chronologically from around 4000 BC to AD 500 and geographically from the Classical World through the Ancient Near East. Geographic definitions for Mesopotamia and other regions are provided. Library catalogs are mentioned with a brief overview of relevant holdings. Among these is worldcat, which is an online database of library holdings found at: [...]. While the authors

suggest access is limited, I have never had a problem using it. This section is followed by a listing of specialised libraries in America, Europe, the Near and Middle East and includes relevant sub-divisions of the British Museum. Museum collections follow. One of the more important is the Egyptian Museum in Cairo. In addition, The Louvre and British Museum are mentioned as well as museums in Tajikistan. The next section lists guides and bibliographies to ancient literature and is arranged by subject then region. Among the former is Perseus, which is an online journal repository. However, only one item from them on Greece is included here. More bibliographies follow in the next chapter. This is arranged by subject and including one about the Anglo Saxons and Celts. Next follows a chapter of bibliographies with a regional approach including one about India. Then we have a one page listing of book review journals and yearbooks. One of the better known is the Bryn Mawr Classical Review. Dictionaries form the subject of the next chapter. Among these are the multi-volume works published by the University of Chicago on the Assyrian and Hittite languages, E. A. Wallis Budge's Egyptian dictionary and the University of Pennsylvania's dictionary of Sumerian. A few mediaeval dictionaries also appear which I consider beyond the authors' terminal period of around AD 500. After these, we have encyclopedias. These are arranged by subject. Among them are a few on mythology. Handbooks follow and are arranged by subject. One of these is the Cambridge Ancient History, a multi-volume overview of the time period. How a 12 volume work qualifies here mystifies me as I consider these works to consist of one and maybe two volumes at best. Next is a section on abstracts and indexes. The former focusing on art. Among the latter mention is made of Worldcat and Project Muse, which is an online collection of books and journal articles. In addition to listing several journal titles within the next section, the authors include their Library of Congress or Dewey Decimal numbers making it easier to find them. A caution here, libraries can and do vary these slightly. Collections of biographies follow arranged by subject area and then by person. One person included is Howard Carter, the discoverer of King Tutankhamun's tomb. After this is a section on relevant directories and associations one can consult for contact information including a web address for the listings. One of these is the American Numismatic Association, which I question being here as its focus is on North America. The American Numismatic Society should also be included (it is missing) as its area of interest is more relevant to the subject at hand. (Numismatics is the study of coins and similar devices of exchange as well as their use.) A chapter listing relevant atlases and map collections is next and is arranged by subject. One of which is about the spread of Islam, a study area that is beyond the stated chronological range of this work. Listings of various photographic and digital collections are the subject of the next chapter. Usually a website is given with each citation to ease the user in finding a relevant work. This chapter is followed by a section listing where one can find theses and dissertations. One of the most useful is ProQuest for American works. Listings for International works are also included. A series of appendices commences with an overview of the Library of Congress classification system, used by most college and university libraries. Appendix 2 is a listing of relevant graduate programs with their websites. Among those mentioned are University of Chicago, University of Pennsylvania, Oxford and Cambridge. Site reports are the subject of the next appendix. These are a collection of what has been found at a particular excavation and are arranged geographically. Places such as Pompeii, Italy, Memphis, Egypt, and Troy, Turkey are included. Works discussing various ancient writing systems form the topic of the next appendix. Among these is the multi-volume work on Assyrian published by the University of Chicago titled, Assyrian Dictionary. This is followed by an appendix on numismatics. Among the listings is the British Museum catalogue of Greek Coins. Entries are coded as chapter.work, for example 1.20 would refer to work 20 in chapter 1, which makes them easy to reference. Despite the minor problems of chronological consistency mentioned above, this work is well worth having in any library which focuses on the ancient world as well as a consulting tool for individuals also interested in the time period.

The archaeological study of the ancient world has become increasingly popular in recent years. A Research Guide to the Ancient World: Print and Electronic Sources, is a partially annotated bibliography. The study of the ancient world is usually, although not exclusively, considered a branch of the humanities, including archaeology, art history, languages, literature, philosophy, and related cultural disciplines which consider the ancient cultures of the Mediterranean world, and adjacent Egypt and southwestern Asia. Chronologically the ancient world would extend from the beginning of the Bronze Age of ancient Greece (ca. 1000 BCE) to the fall of the Western Roman Empire (ca. 500 CE). This book will close the traditional subject gap between the humanities (Classical World; Egyptology) and the social sciences (anthropological archaeology; Near East) in the study of the ancient world. This book is uniquely the only bibliographic resource available for such holistic coverage. The volume consists of 17 chapters and seven appendixes, arranged according to the traditional types of library research materials (bibliographies, dictionaries, atlases, etc.). The appendixes are mostly subject specific, including graduate programs in ancient studies, reports from significant archaeological sites, numismatics, and paleography and writing systems. These extensive author and subject indexes help facilitate ease of use.

The study of the ancient Mediterranean, Egypt, and the Near East continues to be a mainstay of Western education, generating a large volume of scholarship. This guide by Weeks and Medeiros focuses on the monographs, books,

journals, and electronic resources written primarily in Western European languages, Greek, or Hebrew that treat the history and prehistory of the region. As the authors state, the guide cannot be considered comprehensive because of the enormous literature of the field. To warrant inclusion, works were judged by their availability, scholarly significance, and subject matter. In separate chapters, the authors discuss specialized library and museum collections, subject and regional bibliographies, dictionaries, encyclopedias, handbooks, abstracts and indexes, journals, biographical information, directories of organizations and associations, atlases, photographic and visual collections, and theses and dissertations. Several appendixes provide additional helpful information, such as relevant graduate programs, sources on paleography and writing systems, and numismatics. The most useful appendix, however, is the list of archaeological site reports arranged by country and then by site. Because of the scope of the work, some omissions are inevitable, yet for those libraries that support programs in classics, archaeology, ancient history, biblical studies, and related fields, this guide must be considered a required purchase. Summing Up: Highly recommended. Upper-division undergraduates, graduate students, researchers/faculty. (CHOICE)First and foremost, a bibliographic record of resources relating to the ancient world, this book is a collected volume that brings together the disciplines of humanities and the social sciences. Its coverage is holistic and generally excellent. . . . The world is often at our fingertips in an age of technological advances but more often than not knowing where to start and how to get there are questions that concern us. This volume takes away the uncertainty and ensures that when research is undertaken the researcher knows that they are going directly to some relevant information. Arranged in a traditional style by the types of material that would be found in a library, yet with links to finding the information online, this is an extensive volume that will undoubtedly assist researchers in their work. (Reference s)With its inclusion of a wide range of resources for those interested in this period, this volume could be useful in libraries in high schools [and] to those in large academic institutions. (American Reference Books Annual)Weeks and de Medeiros have done a great service for students of the ancient world, making the vast scholarly literature on the subject much more manageable. The clear organizing principles behind this research guide mean that those who are new to the study of antiquity or those experts who want to broaden their understanding beyond their own region of specialization can very quickly immerse themselves in the scholarly literature. With the increasing specialization of ancient studies, a research guide like this adds a much needed level of accessibility to a field that has become very complex and very regionally focused. It is particularly useful in that it is not just a bibliography confined to major works but offers guidance about libraries, institutes, photographic collections, and academic organizations. (Kevin M. McGeough, University of Lethbridge, Canada)The archaeological study of the Ancient World has become increasingly popular in recent years. A Research Guide to the Ancient World: Print and Electronic Sources is a partially annotated bibliography. The study of the ancient world is usually, although not exclusively, considered a branch of the humanities, including archaeology, art history, languages, literature, philosophy, and related cultural disciplines which consider the ancient cultures of the Mediterranean world, and adjacent Egypt and southwestern Asia. Chronologically the ancient world would extend from the beginning of the Bronze Age of ancient Greece (ca. 1000 BCE) to the fall of the Western Roman Empire (ca. 500 CE). This book will close the traditional subject gap between the humanities (Classical World; Egyptology) and the social sciences (anthropological archaeology; Near East) in the study of the Ancient World. This book is uniquely the only bibliographic resource available for such holistic coverage.About the AuthorJohn M. Weeks is Head Librarian, Penn Museum of Archeology and Anthropology, at the University of Pennsylvania. He has a graduate degree in librarianship as well as a doctoral degree in anthropology and archeology. Weeks has published numerous monographs and articles, including two editions of Introduction to Library Research in Anthropology, both of which received Outstanding Academic Book awards from Choice/ACRL (1992, 1998).Jason de Medeiros is Assistant Librarian, University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archeology and Anthropology.