Annotated Bibliographies

In order to assess the degree to which your book handles the historical materials fairly, it’s important to have some scholarly foundation to draw upon. Toward that end, you should compile a bibliography of 8–10 sources (books and articles) that addresses your topic. Please note that the sources should not address your particular book but the subject matter that your book addresses. Don’t worry about reading all of your sources; spending 15–20 minutes with each one should be sufficient to explain why the source is relevant for your project. The annotations should do just that (in 4–6 sentences for each source). All sources should be scholarly.

As a starting point, you should consult The Grove Dictionary of Art, a 34-volume reference work available at the Hekman Library (level 2 in the reference section; look under the Ns); it’s also available online (as Oxford Art Online), though you’ll have to access it via a Calvin terminal. Along with regular keyword searches through the Hekman, search through J-Store and Art Abstracts (both are also available through the Hekman’s online system). Interesting results sometimes turn up through Google Scholar and Google Book, though be aware that these are not indexes but algorithm-based search engines; in other words, the results are often sketchy, and most titles will be neither scholarly nor relevant. For more information, search here: http://libguides.calvin.edu/art


The book is useful for approaches that have stressed the religious underpinnings of Vermeer’s work. There are various nods toward religion throughout the film Girl with a Pearl Earring, but it probably could have been explored in greater detail. It would be nice to know more, for instance, about tensions between Catholic and Protestant communities of the period.


In addition to various essays that address key themes of Vermeer’s life and career, this exhibition catalogue includes *Girl with a Pearl Earring* with a useful description and summary of the painting. It’s crucial to be able to compare the film’s handling of the painting and the work itself.

This encyclopedia entry for Vermeer provides a reliable, brief biography and points to major themes within the scholarship related to the artist. It also provides a useful bibliography.


This book is especially useful for issues of gender and the economic circumstances that women faced during the seventeenth century. Even more importantly, it grapples with the ways in which these issues conditioned the ways in which women were portrayed during the period. This is crucial since the film *Girl with a Pearl Earring* takes so many of its cues from the period in question. To what extent are gender assumptions simply taken over in the film without an awareness of where these constructions come from?


This collection of essays is immensely useful. For my review, I’m especially interested in . . .


Given that a camera obscura is featured in the film (and used to shed light on Vermeer’s working practice), it would be nice to know more about the ways in which Vermeer may actually have used such an instrument.


This is an important source given the way in which the film portrays Vermeer’s most supportive patron as a lecherous collector. Useful historical information is crucial to see what sort of liberties the novelist and filmmakers have taken.


This exhibition catalogue contextualizes the artist’s work within the city of Delft itself. To the extent that the film evokes the city in various ways (and at various social scales), it would be nice to know more about the city.