



# Costume History

## Finding Books

Search these databases from the JSC Library Web site:

The *VSC Library Catalog*; *WorldCat*; *netLibrary* (Electronic books)

Sample *subject* searches: Fashion, Costume history, Costume design, Fashion drawing, Dressmaking, Dress

## Reference Sources (Print and Online)

***Costume Reference.* R/391.00941/Si12c/8 vols.**

A history of costume in Britain with each volume covering a particular era: 1) Roman Britain & The Middle Ages; 2) Tudors & Elizabethans; 3) Jacobean, Stuart & Restoration; 4) The Eighteenth Century; 5) The Regency; 6) The Victorians; 7) The Edwardians; and 8) 1918-1939.

***A Dictionary of Costume and Fashion: Historic and Modern* R/3**

The renowned expert Mary Brooks Picken also wrote *The Fashion Dictionary* and *Language of Fashion*.

***Encyclopedia of Clothing and Fashion.* R/391.003/En19/2005/3 vols.**

This outstanding work, “fulfills a longstanding need for a comprehensive reference source that includes not only definitions, designers, and styles but also historical, psychological, anthropological, sociological, and political approaches to contemporary and historical dress.” (*Choice*)

***Encyclopedia of World Costume.* (Yarwood) R/391.003/Y25e**

With intricate drawings and coverage of worldwide costume and accessories, Yarwood’s encyclopedia remains a classic reference.

***Fashion, Costume and Culture...Through the Ages,* 5 vols. 2004 (Online)**

This is one of 16 encyclopedias in the *Gale Virtual Reference Library*. Use the FIND BOOKS tab from the Library home page to search titles in this collection. Remote access is restricted to the Johnson State College academic community.

***History of Costume* R/391.09/P293h**

Blanche Payne provides many photographs and drawings for each era through the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Pattern drafts for clothing from various periods are on pages 539-590.

***Patterns of Fashion: Volumes 1-4* Search the VSC Library Catalog by author to find stack locations.**

Janet Arnold’s series is considered essential by stage designers, museum curators and teachers of costume. She deconstructs antique clothing and provides a wealth of information about the garments.

## Web Sites

***Costume and Fashion History***

***Bissonnette on Costume: A Visual Directory of Fashion* <http://dept.kent.edu/museum/costume/>**

Search available for specific type of garment, or country. (18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries)

***The Costume Page: Costuming Resources Online* <http://www.costumepage.org>**

An amazing site – over 1,000 links!

***The Costumer's Manifesto* <http://www.costumes.org/history/100pages/costhistpage.htm>**

Information on all sorts of clothing and many periods – another fabulous site.

***Elizabethan Costume Page* <http://www.elizabethancostume.net/>**

An informative site sponsored by the Society for Creative Anachronism; includes some primary sources.

***Fashion--Era*** <http://www.fashion-era.com> 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> centuries

***Fashion Plate Collection*** <http://content.lib.washington.edu/costumehistweb/>  
Beautiful 19<sup>th</sup> & early 20<sup>th</sup> century fashion plates.

***Kent State*** <http://dept.kent.edu/museum/costume/bonc/3timesearch/time.html>  
Costumes of the 18<sup>th</sup> through 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

### ***Museum Collections***

***Cornell University Costume & Textile Collection*** <http://char.txa.cornell.edu/treasures/index.html>  
Primarily 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries

***Museum of Costume, Bath England*** <http://www.museumofcostume.co.uk/>  
Check out their collections search. (18<sup>th</sup> through 20<sup>th</sup> centuries)

***NY Metropolitan Museum of Art Costume Institute***  
[http://www.metmuseum.org/Works\\_of\\_Art/department.asp?dep=8](http://www.metmuseum.org/Works_of_Art/department.asp?dep=8)

See highlights from their magnificent collection, or search their costume database (includes some pictures).

***Victoria and Albert Museum Collections*** <http://www.vam.ac.uk/collections/fashion/index.html>  
You can search their collections by centuries.

### ***Associations***

***Costume Society of America*** <http://www.costumesocietyamerica.com/>

Bookstore listings are by century or subject. Links are available to Amazon.com for purchasing titles.

***Costume Society (Great Britain)*** <http://www.costumesociety.org.uk/>

The “Patterns of Fashion” and “Yarwood” awards are sponsored to recognize the scholarly contributions of Janet Arnold and Doreen Yarwood to the history of costume and fashion.

***International Costumer’s Guild*** <http://www.costume.org>

The ICG’s mission statement: “...an affiliation of amateur, hobbyist, and professional costumers dedicated to the promotion and education of costuming as an art form in all its aspects.”

\*Some annotations are drawn from book reviews, bibliographies and publisher descriptions.  
Professor Maris Wolff supplied annotations for *Costume and Fashion History* Web sites.