A Tutorial:
Search and sort rock art publications online

Rock Art Studies Bibliographic Database

A project of the Museum of Northern Arizona and the Bay Area Rock Art Research Association

Leigh Marymor, July 2020

https://musnaz.org/search_rock_art_studies_db/

The Rock Art Studies Bibliographic Database is an open access, online resource that fulfills the need for a searchable portal into the world’s rock art literature. Geared to the broadest interests of rock art researchers, students, cultural resource managers, and the general public, the RAS database makes rock art literature accessible through a simple on-line search interface.

Photos: Cave of the Swimmers, Gilf Kebir, SW Egypt (Top right); Chatton Park Law, Northumberland, England (Bottom left); Caborca, Sonora, Mexico (Bottom right). Photo Credits: Leigh Marymor
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Geared to the broadest interests of rock art researchers, students, cultural resource managers, and the general public, the RAS database makes rock art literature accessible through a simple search interface that facilitates inquiries into multiple data fields, including authors’ names, title and publication, place-name keyword, subject keyword, ISBN/ISSN number and abstract.

The results of a data search can further be sorted by any of the data fields, including: authors’ names, date, title, and so forth.

An ever increasing number of citations within the database include web links to online versions of the reference cited, and many citations include full authors’ abstracts.

The data compilation has been undertaken by Leigh Marymor with the year 2020 marking the 27th year of continuous revision and expansion of the data. Over 42,000 citations are currently contained in the database.

The RAS database first launched online as a joint project of the Bay Area Rock Art Research Association and University of California’s Bancroft Library. After thirteen years of collaboration, the project found a new home and collaborator at the Anthropology Department at the Museum of Northern Arizona.

Intro: Rock Art Studies Bibliographic Database
RASBdb Tutorial: Slide Index

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2. Introduction: Rock Art Studies Bibliographic Database
3. Slide Index
4. Navigate to the MNA RASBdb home page
5. Click through to the RASBdb landing page
6. Click through to the RASBdb Search Form
7. Intro to the Menu Bar and Searchable Fields
8. The Quick Find button
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15. View Records – List View and PDFs
16. Copy and Paste a Record
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Navigate:

Museum of Northern Arizona RASBdb Home Page using this web link:

https://musnaz.org/search_rock_art_studies_db/

or, search Rock Art Studies Bibliographic Database in Google, or in your favorite web browser, and click on the web link.

Proceed to the next PowerPoint slide...
Navigate:
Click the blue navigation bar to continue to the RASBdb search form.

or scroll down this page for:
• How to Cite the database
• Introduction
• Additional Resources: Key to sources for citations
• Contact the compiler
• Rate of rock art publications over time (graph)
Navigate:

Click through to the search form using the Go to the Database navigation bar.
The Search Form:

Consists of:

The **Menu Bar** located at the top of the page, and **Searchable Fields** appearing as grey boxes.

Hint: When you land on this page, you will find that the data fields are always populated with the same record – it happens to be the first record that was entered into the database.
The Menu Bar:

Quick Find

Type any search term in the Quick Find window. Hit return bar on your keyboard. The database will perform a search and will return all Records that include the search term in any field. This is sometimes called a Global Search. Use the Forward and Back Arrow buttons to scroll through the found set of records.

Example: We typed the term “Cupules” in the Quick Find window and hit the return bar on our keyboard. We found 547 records with that term.

Hint: Had we searched “cup” we would have found many more records, such as, cupule, cup-and-groove, cup-and-ring, cup mark, etc, but also “c-u-p” wherever embedded in a name or word (e.g. “Cupeño ethnography”).
The Menu Bar:

Perform Find

Click on the Perform Find magnifying glass button. You can perform a new find, or repeat the last find.

Click Enter Find Mode and you will be presented with a blank data form.
The Menu Bar:

Perform a Simple Search

When we enter the Find Mode, we are presented with a blank search form. Enter a search term in any field and click the blue Perform button.

Example: By entering the author’s last name, “Le Quellec” in the author field, the search will return all records where “Le Quellec” appears as an author, whether first author, or co-author.

156 records resulted from this search. We can Browse through them using the Forward and Back Arrows on the Menu Bar.
The Menu Bar:

Perform a Complex Search

Essentially the same routine as the Simple Search, but we can add search terms to multiple fields in order to narrow the number of records to those of most interest.

Example: By entering “Le Quellec” into the Author field, “North Africa” into the Place Name field, and “Bovid” into the Keyword field, we will find records where Le Quellec is concerned with bovid (cattle, etc.) motif(s) from North Africa.

This search returned 10 of the 156 records in the database authored by Le Quellec.

Note: The Abstract Field has more data than can be displayed in this screen view.

[Learn more go to slide: “Scroll through large data fields“]
The Menu Bar:

Sort the Records:

Perform a sort of found records. Click on the a/z down-arrow button to open the Sort Records menu.

Highlight the primary sort value for any data field in the Choose Fields menu by clicking on the term. Click on the Move button to place the highlighted field in the Sort Order menu box. Repeat the process to add secondary sort terms. Finally, Click on the blue Sort button to perform the sort.

Example: A search was performed for the keyword “Pomo” in the Keyword field. A sort on Author and Date will order the records by author’s last name and publication date.

Hint: You can choose to arrange the sort by ascending or descending value by selecting the desired tab in the Sort Record menu.
Data Fields:

Scroll large data fields:

When a data field contains more text than can be displayed in the search form screen shot, you can reveal more data by scrolling through the data.

Place the cursor over the data field. Click anywhere in the field. Using the keyboard up and down arrows to scroll through the data.

Example: Both the “http” and “Abstract” fields contain more data than can be read in this search form screen shot.

Hint: Web links in the http field can be highlighted with the cursor, then copied and pasted into a web browser to access an online version of the citation.
View Records:

There are several ways to View Records in the batch of found records that result from a Search.

1. Click through the found records using the Forward and Back buttons in the Menu Bar.

2. Highlight the numerical value in the Record Number window and type in a record number; choose any value from 1 to the maximum number in your found record set. Click the return bar on your keyboard to go-to that record number.
View Records

The Actions Menu Button is located at the far left of the Menu Bar. Click on the Circle-with-vee Button to view the Actions Menu.

Click on the View option in the drop-down menu.

Click on the View as List option to scroll through the found records set by swiping your cursor up or down, or use keyboard arrow keys.

Click on the View as PDF option to convert records to pdf. Scroll through the pdfs by swiping your cursor up or down, or use keyboard arrow keys.

Hint: The database default view is set to View-as-Form.
Copy and Paste a Record

Perform the search.

Open the "View as List" option in the "Actions" menu.

From the Browser (e.g. Google Chrome) Menu Bar: Choose Edit - Select All - Copy

Open a blank Excel Spreadsheet. Placing the cursor in field # A-1, choose the Paste command, “Keep Source Formatting.” All data from all fields including all of the expanded data will be pasted into your document. Highlight column A and choose the Wrap Text command. Adjust column width as necessary.

Hint: If you attempt to copy and paste a large number of records all at once, you may overwhelm your computer’s memory and freeze the screen.
Go forth and search. . .

With these few simple commands in hand you are now prepared to access over 42,000 citations to the world’s rock art literature. The content of the RASBdb is updated continually, so you will always find new information here.

Your questions will be answered. Email them to mleighm@aol.com.

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Co-founder, Bay Area Rock Art Research Association

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