

Research Trips – Methods and Locations



Figure 1 Image of people exploring Bethnal Green Nature Reserve

There are many different places you might go to find information on a topic you're interested in, and many methods you might use to find that information.

As part of the Unit 2 project, 'Experiments in Co-creation', you are asked to plan and go on a research trip that is useful to you and what you are trying to make for this project.

- You might decide to go on a research trip independently and feed back your findings to your group, or your group might decide to all go on the same research trip together.
- You should aim to go on this trip ahead of the check-in session on Friday 24th November, where we will be checking in on your progress for this project so far.
- Remember, your final outcome for your performance is Friday 1st December.

Locations

Below are some ideas of places you might go on a research trip, including some of the ones I have taken you on so far.

This is by no means an exhaustive list – you can be creative and expansive with where you choose to go to find the knowledge you need. I have focused on sites in London to keep travel costs down. You may decide to go further afield. All listed are free, except where otherwise stated. If you don't see what you're looking for, ask your tutor.

Large Contemporary Art Galleries

- Tate (Britain, Modern)
- Serpentine Gallery
- The Barbican

- South London Gallery
- Whitechapel Gallery
- ICA
- Camden Arts Centre
- Goldsmiths CCA

Smaller Contemporary Art Galleries (artist-run/ non-commercial)

- **The Showroom**
A contemporary art space focused on collaborative approaches to cultural production within its locality and beyond. Includes a zine library upstairs!
<https://www.theshowroom.org/>
- **The Mosaic Rooms**
Contemporary culture from the Arab world and beyond.
<https://mosaicrooms.org/>
- **Auto Italia**
A non-profit visual arts institution dedicated to researching, producing and exhibiting work on the intersections of queer studies and social change.
<https://autoitaliasoutheast.org/>
- **Southwark Park Galleries**
Two galleries in a beautiful park setting. Through a locally relevant and internationally significant programme of exhibitions, performances and public engagement, SPG's mission is to connect people using the intersection of art, nature and culture to facilitate meaning and wellbeing across communities.
<https://southwarkparkgalleries.org/>
- **Autograph**
Established in 1988, Autograph's mission is to champion the work of artists who use photography and film to highlight questions of race, representation, human rights and social justice.
<https://autograph.org.uk/>
- **Gasworks**
Gasworks is a non-profit contemporary visual art organisation working at the intersection between UK and international practices and debates.
<https://www.gasworks.org.uk/>
- **Studio Voltaire**
Championing emerging and under-represented artists, we commission and produce exhibitions, collaborative projects, artist development programmes, live events and offsite projects.
<https://studiovoltaire.org/>
- **Peer Gallery**
Not-for-profit free-to access space for contemporary art, located in the neighbourhood of Hoxton in East London. Places artists, young people and local communities at the heart of their internationally recognised programmes of public exhibitions, talks and events and offsite commissions.
<https://www.peeruk.org/>
- **Metroland Studios Gallery**
Art and culture(s) centre working at the intersection of art and community, focused on art-making and production that centres the Brent community.

<https://metrolandcultures.com/>

- **Turf Projects**

Croydon's homegrown artist space and the first entirely artist-run contemporary art space in the borough.

<https://turf-projects.com/>

- **Chisenhale Gallery**

Commissions and produces contemporary art, supporting international and UK-based artists to make their most ambitious work to date by pursuing new directions in their practices.

<https://chisenhale.org.uk/>

- **Lethaby Gallery**

Just at the front of CSM, The Lethaby Gallery showcases the work of staff, students and alumni from Central Saint Martins. Through our exhibitions, events, workshops and community engagement programmes, The Lethaby acts as a site of experimentation for emerging creative talent.

<https://www.arts.ac.uk/colleges/central-saint-martins/whats-on-at-csm/lethaby-gallery>

Museums

- **The Wellcome Collection**
- **The Soane Museum**
- **Horniman Museums and Garden**
- **Victoria and Albert Museum (V&A)**
- **Design Museum**

Libraries/ Archives

- **MayDay Rooms**

MayDay Rooms is archive, resource and safe haven for social movements, experimental and marginal cultures and their histories.

<https://maydayrooms.org/>

- **Stuart Hall Library**, at Iniva.

Stuart Hall Library is a specialist library that centres art and theory publications from the Global Majority, African, Asian, Caribbean, Polynesian, Latinx, and Diaspora perspectives.

<https://iniva.org/library/>

- **Materials and Products Collection**, at CSM.

The Materials and Products Collection is a collection of new and innovative materials that represent current trends in design and manufacturing, based on the first floor of the library at CSM!

<https://www.arts.ac.uk/colleges/central-saint-martins/student-life-at-csm/facilities/materials-and-products-collection>

- **The Wiener Holocaust Library**

The Wiener Holocaust Library is one of the world's leading and most extensive archives on the Holocaust, the Nazi era and genocide.

<https://wienerholocaustlibrary.org/>

- **The Warburg Iconographic and Photographic Collection**

Contains around 400,000 analogue photographs of sculptures, paintings, drawings, prints, tapestries, and other forms of imagery.

<https://warburg.sas.ac.uk/photographic-collection>

- **Black Cultural Archives**

Black Cultural Archives is an archive and heritage centre in Brixton, London, devoted to the histories of people of African and Caribbean descent in Britain.

<https://blackculturalarchives.org/>

- **The Feminist Library**

A large collection of feminist literature based in London. They are a library and community space and support research, activist and community projects.

<https://feministlibrary.co.uk/>

- **The Women's Art Library**, at Goldsmiths.

WAL collected slides, ephemera and other art documentation from artists and actively documented exhibitions and historical collections to offer a public space to view and experience women's art. Thousands of artists from around the world are represented in some form in this collection.

<https://www.gold.ac.uk/make/>

Nature

- **Bethnal Green Nature Reserve**

<https://nomadprojects.org/project/phytology/>

- **Horniman Museum and Garden**

Includes a tropical indoor butterfly house!

- **Kew Gardens**

(£6 for students)

- **Chelsea Physic Garden**

(£6.50 for students)

Of course, there are also more informal locations that your research might take place, like your local park, your grandma's attic, your parents' old VHS collection, or on the street or the beach. Feel free to do your research there too!

Methods

Below are some ideas of methods you might use to collect data at your research site.

- Writing down your reflections
- Blogging/ journalling
- Drawing what you see
- Drawing what you feel
- Interviewing people
- Taking photos
- Making photocopies/ scans of original material
- Taking videos
- Taking voice recordings and transcribing.

Remember, if you plan to take photos, videos or voice recordings of people, or interview people for your research, it is important to get their written consent. More information is here

<https://www.arts.ac.uk/research/research-standards-and-ethics>, but you can also discuss with your tutor.