

Question 1: Giovanni Batista della Palla solicited Andrea del Sarto's *Sacrifice of Isaac* to sell to Francis I of France. Did he collect other paintings, and why is it significant if he did? Where are the paintings now held?

Methodology:

- 1. Search the Ingalls Library catalog:
Begin with a subject word search for **Francis I**.
- 2. Select the title that is most relevant:
A number of volumes on Francis I exist, including several which directly reference his art patronage. Fill out a call slip for *The Collection of Francis I: Royal Treasures*, N6915 .C69 1996.
- 3. Scan the table of contents for relevant topics:
We find a chapter on "The Art Patronage of Francis I" and another, "Francis I and Italian Painting." The former provides background regarding his patronage of the arts, the latter his interest in del Sarto. *Sacrifice of Isaac* is mentioned here, as a commission by della Palla for Francis I. However it appears the painting was executed after del Sarto fell out of favor with the king, and is therefore not listed as part of the collection. In this text, we find many examples of Museums which hold paintings formerly owned by Francis I.
- 4. Search the Ingalls Library catalog:
Perform a second subject word search, this time for **Andrea del Sarto**.
- 5. Select titles from the results which relate to the topic:
The catalog raisonne is always a good place to start. Freitag's *Art Books: a Basic Bibliography of Monographs on Artists*, tells us that Freedburg wrote the volume in 1963, *Andrea del Sarto*. The call number is ND623 .S2 F73 1963 v. 1-2.

A number of recent volumes on the artist exist, but are not published in English. For the purpose of this exercise, we will not consult these texts.
- 6. Check the index and illustration list in the CR.
The painting is figure 179, with several detailed images that follow. The text in the second volume explains the history of the painting, of which del Sarto produced several versions. The connection to della Palla is also established in the text. But it is clear again that Francis I did not own the painting. We also find that a version of the *Sacrifice of Isaac* is owned by the Cleveland Museum of Art.
- 7. Consult *Bénézit's Dictionary of Artists*:
The entry for Andrea del Sarto provides further biographical background on the artist, as well as his falling out with Francis I. As is customary, *Bénézit* provides a copy of the artist's mark, an extensive bibliography, a list of museums and galleries which own the artist's work, and a selection of significant auction records.
- 8. Consult *Grove's Dictionary of Art*:
The entry for Francis I is a see reference to Valois. There we find the history of the House of Valois, including Francis I. The entry includes reference to Francis I as "Father of the Arts" in so much as his patronage of Italian painters altered the course of French art and culture.

- 9. Search JStor:
Search for the artist's name **Andrea del Sarto**, bound by quotes.
- 10. Select an article:
We find an article titled, "Andrea, Raphael, and the Moment of 'Andrea del Sarto'" which discusses a poem by Robert Browning, about the artist and his relationship with his wife. While the subject of the article extends beyond the scope of art history, it contains several sources in the footnotes which may be of use in further research.
- 11. Search *Bibliography of the History of Art*:
Utilizing the thesaurus, find the best subject phrase to search, **Francis I, king of France, 1494-1547**. In the results we find a dissertation, *The Arts in the Court of Francis I, 1515-1547; a Comparative Study of Selected Examples from Poetry, Music and Visual Arts*, by Loeffler, which is available via ILL through KSL.
- 12. Consult the Clipping Files:
Search the library catalog for the artist's name as author. Clipping files are available by request at the Reference Desk.

13. Find a digital image of the painting using ArtStor:

Search for the artist's name, then search within the results for the painting. The *Sacrifice of Isaac* from the Gemäldegalerie Alte Meister in Dresden is available, and is suggested by the CR to be the painting intended for Francis I.