A Guide to Online Sources for Dress History Research

Online sources for dress history research have been increasing in scale and quality. This guide documents online sources that are of a professional quality and that play a role in furthering the academic study of dress history. Categorised alphabetically per country, the following online collections reflect the interdisciplinarity of dress history research that can be accessed through searchable banks of images, objects, and text. To be included in this guide, the museum or archive must offer online sources for dress history research that can be officially referenced at an academic level; for example, the image must include an accession number or museum identification and full citation information.

The purpose of this guide is to provide a comprehensive list of online sources for researchers and students. This guide will be updated and published in The Journal of Dress History twice per year. Additions and corrections to this guide are warmly encouraged. Please email journal@dresshistorians.org.

Australia

The Australian Dress Register, Ultimo
The Australian Dress Register is a collaborative, online project about dress with Australian provenance. http://www.australiandressregister.org/browse

The Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences, Sydney
The museum is home to the material heritage of Australian culture, history and lifestyle. There are more than 500,000 separate items in the collection, including dress and fashion. https://collection.maas.museum

The National Gallery of Australia, Canberra
The National Gallery of Australia is the Commonwealth of Australia's national cultural institution for the visual arts and is a portfolio agency within the Department of Communications and the Arts. https://artsearch.nga.gov.au

Belgium

Fashion Museum of Antwerp and The University of Antwerp, Antwerp
This online collection was compiled for the sole purpose of being accessible to study, research, training, and inspiration. http://128.199.60.250/omeka/items/browse

Canada

The McCord Stewart Museum, Montreal
The online collection includes clothing and accessories belonging to Canadian men, women and children, covering three centuries; garments from Montreal designers, manufacturers, and retailers; quilts, coverlets, and other hand-made domestic textiles. http://www.musee-mccord.qc.ca/en/collections

Ryerson University, Fashion Research Collection, Toronto
This collection offers a wide selection of fashion and textiles. http://ryersonfashion.pastperfectonline.com
The University of Alberta, Anne Lambert Clothing and Textiles Collection, Edmonton
Founded in 1972, the collection includes everyday wear and designer clothes for men, women and children from different continents and spanning over 350 years of history.
https://clothingtextiles.ualberta.ca

The University of Calgary, The Theatrical Scene and Costume Design Collection, Calgary
This collection features designs dating back to the mid nineteenth century.
http://www.ucalgary.ca/costumedesign

Chile

Museo de la Moda, Santiago
This online database offers a timeline of fashion with descriptive information and images.
http://www.museodelamoda.cl/linea-de-tiempo

England

Art UK, London
This searchable database is a compilation of public art collections within the UK.
https://artuk.org

Ashmolean Museum, Oxford
The Ashmolean has embarked on a major project to digitise its collections with an initial target of making 250,000 objects available online by 2020.
http://collections.ashmolean.org

On this page, select Online Catalogue. The Bank of England Archive contains over 88,000 records relating to all aspects of the Bank’s history and work, dating from when the Bank was founded in 1694 to the present day.
https://www.bankofengland.co.uk/archive

Bloomsbury Fashion Central and Berg Fashion Library
This is one platform that offers instant access to scholarly research, iconic images, and quality textbooks. To gain comprehensive access, login by subscription, which may be available through an affiliated educational establishment or public library.
https://www.bloomsburyfashioncentral.com

The Bowes Museum, Barnard Castle
The online database includes an array of dress and textile artefacts, including items from the wardrobe of Empress Eugenie and other pieces from the Blackborne Lace Collection.
http://bowes.adlibhosting.com/search/simple

Bridgeman Images
This online collection has over two million art, culture, and historic images.
http://www.bridgemanimages.com

Brighton & Hove Museums Costume Collection, Brighton
Brighton & Hove Museums’ comprehensive costume collection is of considerable national significance. It embraces men’s, women’s, and children’s dress and accessories from the sixteenth century to the present day.
https://brightonmuseums.org.uk/discover/collections/fashion-and-textiles
**British History Online**
This is a digital library of key printed primary and secondary sources for the history of Britain and Ireland, with a primary focus on the period between 1300 and 1800. BHO was founded by the Institute of Historical Research and the History of Parliament Trust in 2003.
http://www.british-history.ac.uk/using-bho/subject-guides

**The British Library, London**
The website contains many images available freely online, which could support dress history research, such as illuminated manuscripts.
https://www.bl.uk

**The British Museum, London**
On this page, a search box enables a comprehensive search through over four million objects.
http://www.britishmuseum.org/research

**The Burgon Society, London**
The following website contains a list of the items of academical dress owned by the Burgon Society, with many images of gowns and hoods.
http://www.burgon.org.uk/society/wardrobe/uk.php

**Central Saint Martins, London**
This searchable online collection includes art and design of Central Saint Martins alumni and images from the British Artists’ Film and Video Study Collection.
http://collections.arts.ac.uk

**Chertsey Museum, The Olive Matthews Collection, Chertsey**
This collection features many items of national significance. It contains over 4000 men’s, women’s and children’s fashionable clothes dating from circa 1700 to the present.
http://www.chertseymuseum.org.uk

**The Costume Research Image Library of Tudor Effigies**
This is a Textile Conservation Centre project now hosted by The Tudor Tailor and J M D & Co. The website includes images of sixteenth-century effigies in churches in the English counties of Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, Sussex, and Hampshire, including the Isle of Wight. This resource is useful to anyone interested in the cut and construction of sixteenth-century dress.
http://www.tudoreffigies.co.uk

**The Courtauld Gallery, London**
The following website includes the complete collection of paintings, sculpture, decorative arts, and drawings, as well as a selection of prints.
http://www.artandarchitecture.org.uk

**The Fashion Museum, Bath**
There are almost 100,000 objects in the Fashion Museum collection, some items of which can be accessed on the following website.
https://www.fashionmuseum.co.uk/collection

**Goldsmiths Textile Collection, London**
The Collection, founded in the 1980s by Constance Howard and Audrey Walker, comprises textile art, embroidery and dress.
http://www.gold.ac.uk/textile-collection

**Historic Royal Palaces Image Library, Hampton Court Palace**
This online database includes images of fashion, caricature, art, portraits.
http://images.hrp.org.uk
The John Bright Historic Costume Collection, London
This website is a catalogue of key items from the collection of original garments and textiles belonging to award-winning costume designer, John Bright.
https://www.thejohnbrightcollection.co.uk

Knitting in Early Modern Europe
This online database provides photographs and technical details about knitted caps from the fifteenth to the seventeenth centuries held in European collections. It offers opportunities to comment on the material and participate in experimental archaeology which is attempting to match the characteristics of the fulled knitted fabric from the era.
www.kemeresearch.com

Marks and Spencer Archive Catalogue, Leeds
The M&S Company Archive holds thousands of historical records from the days of Michael Marks’ Penny Bazaar to the present. It is possible to browse themes, such as Lingerie and Sleepwear, Textile Technology, and Wartime.
https://archive-catalogue.marksandspencer.ssl.co.uk/home

Our unique collections include over a million objects from thousands of years of London’s history. The Dress and Textiles Collection focuses on clothes and textiles that were made, sold, bought, and worn in London from the sixteenth century to the present. The Paintings, Prints, and Drawings Collection, as well as the Photographs Collection, support research in dress history.
https://www.museumoflondon.org.uk/collections

The National Archives, Kew
Browse over 75,000 images available to download immediately, spanning hundreds of years of history from The National Archives’ unique collections, from ancient maps to iconic advertising.
https://images.nationalarchives.gov.uk

The National Army Museum, London
This online collection holds a large image gallery that could be useful for research in dress history.
https://collection.nam.ac.uk

The National Trust
Discover great art and collections and explore over 200 historic places (and 921,731 items online) in the care of The National Trust.
http://www.nationaltrustcollections.org.uk

People’s History Museum, Manchester
The collections span four centuries of the history of working people in Britain with the majority focusing on the last 200 years. The museum holds one of the largest collections of historic trade union and political banners in the world and is the UK’s leading authority on the conservation and study of banners.
http://www.phm.org.uk/keemu

The Public Domain Review, Manchester
The Public Domain Review is a not-for-profit project dedicated to works that have fallen into the public domain, which are therefore able to be used freely. To find dress history images and text, insert “fashion” into the search box at the top of the page.
http://publicdomainreview.org

The Royal Collection, London
The “Search the Collection” tool is easy to navigate through thousands of images to support research in dress history.
https://www.royalcollection.org.uk/collection
The Underpinnings Museum, London
The Underpinnings Museum is an online archive dedicated to the history of underwear. The goal of the project is to provide free access to an oft-neglected area of fashion study. Each object is accompanied by detailed imagery, technical and contextual information.
https://underpinningsmuseum.com

The University of Brighton, The Dress History Teaching Collection, Brighton
The aim of the Dress History Teaching Collection is to offer all students and staff at the University of Brighton direct access to closely examine and photograph historical and world fabrics and garments while encouraging the use of the collection within material culture research.
http://arts.brighton.ac.uk/projects/teaching-collection

The Victoria and Albert Museum, Textiles and Fashion Collection, London
The V&A holds the national collection of Textiles and Fashion, which spans a period of more than 5000 years. The Clothworkers’ Centre for the Study and Conservation of Textiles and Fashion is the location at which items can be studied in person.
http://collections.vam.ac.uk

The Wedgwood Museum Collections, Stoke–on–Trent
The searchable, online collection includes some interesting images of historic dress, from Wedgwood portrait medallions to a woman's shoe designed with a Wedgwood heel.
http://www.wedgwoodmuseum.org.uk/collections/search-the-collection

The Wellcome Collection Library, London
The Wellcome Collection, one of the world’s major resources for the study of medical history. The online collection offers free downloads of high-resolution images of paintings, drawings and caricatures, photographs, films, posters, books, pamphlets, archives, and sound recordings.
https://wellcomelibrary.org/collections

The William Morris Gallery, Walthamstow
The William Morris Gallery holds the most comprehensive collection of objects relating to all aspects of Morris’s life and work, including his work as a designer, a writer and a campaigner for social equality and the environment.
http://www.wmgallery.org.uk/collection/browse-the-collection

France

The National Centre for Stage Costume, Moulines
This collection includes costume for performing art, theatre, opera, ballet, dance, and street theatre productions.
http://www.cnsc.fr/explore-collections

The Palais Galliera, Paris
This fashion museum offers a comprehensive online collection that includes many images to support dress history research.
http://www.palaisgalliera.paris.fr/en/collections/collections
Germany

The Munich City Museum, Munich
Access the Fashion and Textiles Collections through the main website. Founded in 1888, the museum collection includes fashion and textiles from everyday clothing to haute couture from the early eighteenth century to the present day.
https://www.muenchner-stadtmuseum.de

Hungary

The Museum of Applied Arts, Textile and Costume Collection, Budapest
The 17,000 items in the Textile and Costume Collection are mainly from Europe, and some from overseas, representing a wide range of techniques and periods of textile art. Complementing the textiles themselves is a historical collection of equipment used to make them.

Ireland

National Museums Northern Ireland, Ulster
The museum has several collections, which include art, costume, and textiles.
https://www.nmni.com/collections/art

Italy

Europeana Fashion International Association, Florence
Explore fashion from more than 30 European public and private institutions. Digital images include historical clothing and accessories, contemporary designs, catwalk photographs, drawings, sketches, plates, catalogues and videos.

Valentino Garavani Virtual Museum, Milan
Take a virtual tour through this museum, dedicated to the fashion design of Valentino (1932–).
http://www.valentinogaravanimuseum.com

Japan

The Bunka Gakuen Library, Tokyo
This is a specialised library for fashion and clothing. The library collects rare books, magazines, fashion plates, etc, from the sixteenth century to the nineteenth century.
http://digital.bunka.ac.jp/kichosho_e/index.php

Kyoto Costume Institute Digital Archive
Searchable online database with images, from 1700 to today.
http://www.kci.or.jp/en/archives/digital_archives
New Zealand

The New Zealand Fashion Museum
This is a museum dedicated to the curation of New Zealand’s rich fashion past, making it relevant for the present and future. Established in 2010 as a Charitable Trust, it records and shares the stories of the people, objects and photographs that have contributed to the development of New Zealand’s unique fashion identity.
http://nzfashionmuseum.org.nz

Scotland

The Glasgow School of Art, Glasgow
The Archives and Collections are available online and include images of art, design, photographs, textiles, and more.
www.gsaarchives.net

Heriot Watt University Textile Collection, Edinburgh
The Textile Collection of archives, fabric, and apparel, charts the evolution of the Scottish textile industry from the mid eighteenth century to the present day.
https://www.hw.ac.uk/services/heritage-information-governance/textile-collection.htm

The National Library of Scotland, Edinburgh
This online source includes art and design images, medieval manuscripts, maps, photography, sport, theatre, war, and more.
https://digital.nls.uk/gallery

National Museums Scotland, Edinburgh
The museum has over three million objects and specimens, ranging from the earliest times to the present day. The online collections database includes a range of fashion and textiles.
http://nms.scran.ac.uk

Spain

The Virtual Fashion Museum of Catalonia
This website is a platform to present historical and period costumes of public collections in Catalonia, Spain. More than 6000 pieces of period clothes are held in these collections and this platform tries to expose them to a wider audience. There are 642 costumes digitalised in this online catalogue.
http://www.museudelamoda.cat/ca

United States

The American Antiquarian Society, Worcester
The AAS library today houses the largest and most accessible collection of books, pamphlets, broadsides, newspapers, periodicals, music, and graphic arts material printed through 1876 in what is now the United States. The Society maintains an online inventory and visual resource designed for researchers. The online inventory includes painted portraits, miniatures, sculpted portrait busts, as well as other artefacts that could be useful for dress historians.
http://www.americanantiquarian.org
The Art Institute, Chicago
The Department of Textiles contains more than 13,000 textiles and 66,000 sample swatches ranging from 300 BC to the present. The collection has strengths in Pre-Columbian textiles, European vestments, tapestries, woven silks and velvets, printed fabrics, needlework, and lace. The Institute also offers digital collections of European painting and sculpture, prints and drawings.
http://www.artic.edu/aic/collections/textiles

These images are found in The Digital Library Collection, which also holds additional collections that could be beneficial in dress history research.
https://www.brooklynmuseum.org/opencollection/archives/set/198

Brown University Library Collections, Providence
This page lists the many different collections that the library has compiled, many of which contain interesting images of dress. A search box at the top, right-hand corner allows a comprehensive sweep of the whole Brown Digital Repository. Brown University also holds The Anne S K Brown Military Collection, the foremost American collection of material devoted to the history and iconography of soldiers and soldiering, and is one of the world’s largest collections devoted to the study of military and naval uniforms.
https://repository.library.brown.edu/studio/collections/library
https://library.brown.edu/collections/askb

Colonial Williamsburg, Virginia
Colonial Williamsburg, an eighteenth century living heritage museum, hosts a vast selection of online resources, a digital library, and special collections. There are both textual and visual objects in this collection.
http://research.history.org/resources

Columbia College, Fashion Study Collection Online Database, Chicago
The Fashion Study Collection (FSC) at Columbia College Chicago is an exceptional collection of designer garments, fashion history, and ethnic dress. A hands-on, academic, and inspirational resource for students and the public, the collection was founded in 1989 and has grown to house more than 6000 items.
http://fashioncolumbia.pastperfectonline.com

The Commercial Pattern Archive, University of Rhode Island Library Special Collections, Kingston
This is a wide collection of vintage sewing patterns.
https://copa.apps.uri.edu/index.php

The Costume and Textile Collection, Cornell University, Ithaca
This collection includes more than 10,000 items of apparel, accessories and flat textiles dating from the eighteenth century to present, including substantial collections of functional clothing, technical textiles, and ethnographic costume. To view images, scroll down the page and select the link, online catalogue database. Then, select guest account, which will take you to the searchable database of costume.
https://www.human.cornell.edu/fsad/about/costume/home

Drexel University, Historic Costume Collection, Philadelphia
This is a searchable image database comprised of selected fashion from the Robert and Penny Fox Historic Costume Collection (FHCC), designs loaned to the project by private collectors for inclusion on the website, fashion exhibitions curated by Drexel faculty and fashion research by faculty and students.
http://digimuse.westphal.drexel.edu/publicdrexel/index.php
Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising (FIDM), Los Angeles
The collections of the FIDM Museum and Galleries span more than 200 years of fashion history, from Parisian haute couture to iconic film costumes and one-of-a-kind accessories. http://fidmmuseum.pastperfectonline.com

The Folger Shakespeare Library, Washington, DC
The Folger Shakespeare Library holds the world’s largest collection of Shakespearean art, from the sixteenth century to the present day, as well as a world-renowned collection of books, manuscripts, and prints from Renaissance Europe. The Digital Image Collection includes some stage costumes and other dress images. https://www.folger.edu/works-of-art

HathiTrust Digital Library, Ann Arbor
HathiTrust is a partnership of academic and research institutions, offering a collection of millions of titles digitised from libraries around the world. These books are especially good for textual evidence to support dress history research. Photographs and pictorial works can also be searched in this database. https://www.hathitrust.org

Iowa State University, The Textiles and Clothing Museum, Ames
This online collections database includes dress, dating from the 1840s to today. http://tcmuseum.pastperfectonline.com

The J Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles
The collection of the J Paul Getty Museum comprises Greek, Roman, and Etruscan art from the Neolithic to Late Antiquity; European art (including illuminated manuscripts, paintings, drawings, sculpture, and decorative arts) from the Middle Ages to the early twentieth century; and international photography from its inception to the present day. The images are fully searchable. http://www.getty.edu/art/collection

Kent State University, Gallery of Costume, Kent
This online collection includes an impressive array of dress and historic costume from the eighteenth century through the twentieth century. https://www.kent.edu/museum/gallery-costume

The Library of Congress, Washington, DC
The Digital Collection holds a wide array of images that can be utilised in dress history research, including The Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division. There are several categories from which to choose, or a separate search box at the top of the page can be utilised. https://www.loc.gov/collections

The Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA), Los Angeles
This LACMA website includes a link to a collection, titled, Fashion, 1900–2000. The following two websites are most important for dress history research. https://collections.lacma.org

Los Angeles Public Library, Los Angeles
There are several different collections that are freely available and searchable, including travel posters, movie posters, book plates, and fashion plates. The Casey Fashion Plates Collection included over 6200 hand-coloured, finely detailed fashion illustrations produced between 1780 and 1880 for British and American fashion magazines. http://www.lapl.org/collections-resources/visual-collections

Margaret Herrick Library Digital Collections, Hollywood
The database contains more than 35,000 digitised images about American cinema, including original artwork and Hollywood costume design. http://digitalcollections.oscars.org
The following address is the main page, which lists the vast array of items held in the Met's digital collection, including The Costume Institute and the Irene Lewisohn Costume Reference Library at The Metropolitan Museum of Art. Searchable image databases include dress, fashion plates, textual references, and more.
http://libmma.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm

The Museum of Chinese in America, New York
The Museum of Chinese in America (MOCA) has amassed a nationally-significant collection of materials documenting Chinese life in America, including fashion and textiles.
http://www.mocanyc.org/collections

The Museum of Fine Arts, Boston
The David and Roberta Logie Department of Textile and Fashion Arts offers a wide range of online materials for dress history research. Scroll down the page to see the links to the Textiles and Fashion Arts Collection. The museum also holds a large collection of prints and drawings, containing almost 200,000 works that range from the beginnings of printing in the fifteenth century to today.
http://www.mfa.org/collections/textiles-and-fashion-arts

The Museum of Modern Art, New York
The museum contains almost 200,000 works of modern and contemporary art, more than 77,000 works of which are available online.
https://www.moma.org/collection

Newport, Rhode Island Cultural Institutions Online Collections
This database includes items from participating cultural institutions in Newport, Rhode Island, including the Doris Duke Fashion Collection of Newport Restoration.
http://newportri.org

The New York Public Library Digital Collections, New York
The New York Public Library offers many different online collections, including Fashion Collections and an Art and Picture Collection.
https://digitalcollections.nypl.org/collections/lane/fashion-collections

New York School of Interior Design Archives & Special Collections, New York
A collection of 23 boxes of material including correspondence, drawings, publications, articles, project specifications, photographs and miscellaneous items documenting the careers of both Sarah Tomerlin Lee (1910–2001), advertising executive, magazine editor, author and interior designer, and her husband Thomas (Tom) Bailey Lee (1909–1971), noted designer of displays, exhibits, sets, and interiors.
http://nysidarchives.libraryhost.com/repositories/2/resources/2

Ohio State University, Daphne Dare Collection, Columbus
The Ohio State University Libraries’ Jerome Lawrence and Robert E Lee Theatre Research Institute includes costume and scene designs from more than 50 productions by British designer, Daphne Dare (1929–2000).
http://drc03.drc.ohiolink.edu/handle/2374.OX/3

Ohio State University, Historic Costume and Textiles Collection, Columbus
This collection is a scholarly and artistic resource of apparel and textile material culture, including the Ann W Rudolph Button Collection. The site all includes lesson plans for its programme, Teaching History with Historic Clothing Artefacts.
http://costume.osu.edu
Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia
Many objects from the Museum’s collection of over 240,000 are available in the online collections database, include dress historical images with complete citations.
http://www.philamuseum.org/collections/search.html

Philadelphia University, The Design Center, Philadelphia
Tapestry is an online resource that catalogues thousands of historic fabric swatches from Philadelphia University’s vast textile collection.
http://tapestry.philau.edu

Phoenix Art Museum, Fashion Collection, Phoenix
The Fashion Collection is comprised of more than 4500 American and European garments, shoes and accessories. It houses important fashions from the eighteenth to late twentieth centuries and emphasises major American designers of the twentieth century.
http://www.phxart.org/collection/fashion

Shippensburg University, Fashion Archives and Museum, Shippensburg
The Fashion Archives’ 15,000-item collection, comprised mostly of donations, consists of clothing and accessories worn by men, women and children, dating from the eighteenth to the twentieth century. Primarily focused on middle- and working-class Americans, clothing from all walks of life is represented in the collection.
http://fashionarchives.org/collection.html

Smithsonian Libraries, Washington, DC
In the search box, insert “fashion” for a variety of fashion plates, shoes, and more.
https://library.si.edu/image-gallery

State University of New York, Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT), New York
The address is for the digital collections of the FIT Library’s Special Collections and College Archives. On the main page, there is a search box into which any term can be inserted. Images are of high resolution and easily downloaded. At the top of the page, select Images or Collections to view a variety of sources for research in dress history.
https://sparcdigital.fitnyc.edu

State University of New York, Geneseo
This is a guide for finding primary source material for costume images.
http://libguides.genesee.edu/c.php?g=212661&p=1403638

Staten Island Historical Society, New York
The Staten Island Historical Society’s collections tell the story of the American experience through the lives of Staten Islanders.
http://statenisland.pastperfectonline.com

The University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
Many different digital collections are listed on this page, including the Motley Collection of Theatre and Costume Design, containing over 4000 items.
https://digital.library.illinois.edu/collections

The University of Michigan, Digital Collections, Ann Arbor
On the left-hand column, highlighted in yellow, searches can be run through many different filters. In that yellow column, select Image Collections to access applicable research for dress history.
https://quod.lib.umich.edu
The University of North Texas, Texas Fashion Collection, Denton
The collection includes over 18,000 items, and is an important element to the fashion programme at the University of North Texas.
https://digital.library.unt.edu/explore/collections/TXFC

The University of Pennsylvania Libraries, Philadelphia
The Online Books Page is a website that facilitates access to books that are freely readable over the Internet.
http://onlinebooks.library.upenn.edu

The University of Texas, Harry Ransom Centre, Austin
There are many collections accessible, representing just a sample of the diverse holdings in literature, photography, film, art, and the performing arts, with many images to support research in dress history.
https://hrc.contentdm.oclc.org/digital

The University of Washington, The Costume and Textiles Collection, Seattle
The Henry Art Gallery’s Costume and Textile Collection is a unique resource to be utilised for the study of construction, design, and pattern found on clothing and textiles. These collections reflect trends in historic fashion, preserve information about traditional ethnic dress, and provide important clues about how colour and pattern on clothing is used to structure social groups.
http://dig.henryart.org/textiles/costumes

The University of Wisconsin Digital Collection, Madison
This digital collection includes images of millinery, dressmaking, clothing, and costume books from the UW–Madison collections.
https://uwdc.library.wisc.edu/collections/HumanEcol

The Valentine, Richmond
This address is the main page for the Costume and Textiles Collection at the Valentine, which comprises over 30,000 dress, accessory, and textile objects made, sold, worn, or used in Virginia from the late eighteenth century to the present day. On this page, there is a menu on the right that lists links to the Collections Database Search page and the Archives page.
https://thevalentine.org/collections/costume-textiles/

Wayne State University, Digital Dress Collection, Detroit
There are several different collections on this page, however, the Digital Dress Collection is the best for dress history research. The Digital Dress Collection contains images of clothing worn in Michigan during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The collection offers insight into Michigan life and society. The items shown here are held in the collections of Wayne State University, The Henry Ford, Detroit Historical Society, and Meadowbrook Hall.
http://digital.library.wayne.edu/digitalcollections/allcollections.php

We Wear Culture, Mountain View
This project is part of the greater Google Arts and Culture Project, which includes a wealth of information and images, all fully searchable.
https://artsandculture.google.com/project/fashion

Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library, Winterthur
Winterthur’s collection of nearly 90,000 objects features decorative and fine arts made or used in America from 1630 to 1860. The collection is organised in several main categories: ceramics, glass, furniture, metalwork, paintings and prints, and textiles and needlework.
http://museumcollection.winterthur.org
Yale University, Cushing/Whitney Medical Library, New Haven
The Prints and Drawings Digital Collections contains interesting images for dress history research. http://whitney.med.yale.edu/gsdl/collect/prntdraw

Yale University, The Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art, New Haven
The Yale Centre for British Art holds the largest and most comprehensive collection of British art outside the United Kingdom, presenting the development of British art and culture from the Elizabethan period to the present day. Together with the Reference Library and Archives, the Centre's collections of paintings, sculpture, drawings, prints, rare books, and manuscripts provide an exceptional resource for understanding the story of British art. https://britishart.yale.edu/collections/search

Other

Archive Grid
This is a searchable database for archival collections in the United States. https://beta.worldcat.org/archivegrid

Digital Public Library of America
This is an all–digital library that aggregates metadata (or information describing an item) and thumbnails for millions of photographs, manuscripts, books, sounds, moving images, and more from libraries, archives, and museums across the United States. DPLA brings together the riches of America’s libraries, archives, and museums, and makes them freely available to the world. https://beta.dp.la

Getty Images
Royalty–free historic images can be filtered in the search tool. https://www.gettyimages.co.uk

The Internet Archive
This is a non–profit library of millions of free books, images, and more. On the top menu, click on the images icon to search for images. In the search box in the centre of the page, insert “fashion plate” to view and download a wide variety of historic fashion images. Scroll down the homepage to view lists of the top categories. https://archive.org

North American Women’s Letters and Diaries
This database is the largest electronic collection of women’s diaries and correspondence ever assembled, spanning more than 300 years. This database is searchable with a free, 30–day subscription; otherwise, access is advised through an academic institution or library. https://alexanderstreet.com/products/north-american-womens-letters-and-diaries

Open Culture
Browse a collection of over 83,500 vintage sewing patterns. On this page there is also a list to links of art and images, which could be useful in dress history research. http://www.openculture.com/2017/06/browse-a-collection-of-over-83500-vintage-sewing-patterns.html

Project Gutenberg
Project Gutenberg offers over 57,000 free eBooks, many of which could support research in dress history, such as the complete 1660s diary of Samuel Pepys. http://www.gutenberg.org

Vintage Sewing Patterns
This searchable database includes images of sewing patterns, printed before 1992.
http://vintagepatterns.wikia.com

The Visual Arts Data Service (VADS)
This is an online resource for visual arts that contains many different collections that would be useful for dress history research. The search tool on the main page allows global searches across all collections; otherwise, individual collections can be searched.
https://vads.ac.uk/collections

WorldCat Library Database
WorldCat connects you to the collections and services of more than 10,000 libraries worldwide.
https://www.worldcat.org