

Online Dance Archives

A great place to start is on [UF Smathers Library's Research Guide for Dance \(Links to an external site.\)](#)

Here you will find links to the following sites that are good for locating **video**:

- [Jacobs Pillow Interactive \(Links to an external site.\)](#) - "An ever-growing collection of dance videos filmed at Jacob's Pillow from the 1930s to today, *plus new illustrated essays (Links to an external site.)*." A great source for modern and postmodern dance.
- [Numeridanse - \(Links to an external site.\)](#) Numeridanse is a multimedia dance platform. It offers free access to a unique video base: filmed performances, documentaries, interviews, fictions, dance videos. Every single genre, style and form is showcased here: butoh, classical ballet, neo-classical ballet, baroque, Indian, African, flamenco, contemporary, traditional dances, hip-hop, tango, jazz, circus arts, performance, etc." The project is also known as the European Video Dance Heritage Collection, which is managed by a community of dance professionals. It is supported and coordinated by the Maison de la Danse in Lyon, FRANCE. You can use the map search tool to search by region of the world.
- [UbuWeb Dance - \(Links to an external site.\)](#) Eclectic mix of short dance videos, particularly those that are out-of-print or difficult to obtain ("...rather unorthodox mix of pure, art, and pop dance forms"); for education and non-commercial uses only. It is curated by Contemporary Dance Video Database (below), but a bit easier to search because it has a list of choreographers' names on the landing page. Good for postmodern, contemporary dance, and contemporary ballet.
- [Contemporary Dance Video Database \(Links to an external site.\)](#) - This site pulls together contemporary dance performance videos hosted elsewhere. I like the "Sidebar" view, which lists choreographers' names on the left-hand side. Mostly performance clips, some interviews. Some videos require Adobe Flash Player, but most are hosted online.
- [The Hemispheric Institute Digital Video Library \(Links to an external site.\)](#) - This is the Institute founded by Diana Taylor. It's "a collaboration between New York University Libraries and NYU's Hemispheric Institute of Performance and Politics, provides a digital venue for documenting the expression of social and political life through performance in the many cultures and political landscapes of the Americas."
- [Dance History Video Archive \(DHVA\) collection \(Links to an external site.\)](#). "The collection preserves culturally significant recordings that document global and U.S. dance traditions, creative work by outstanding choreographers and performers, and performances that helped to advance the art form." So far, a small collection available

online, but focus is performances in California - folk festivals, campus clubs, etc.
Several Mexican folkloric videos from the 60s and 70s.

Other online video archives:

- [NYPL Digital Collections: Jerome Robbins Dance Division Moving Image Archive \(Links to an external site.\)](#): Streaming video from the Dance Division at New York Public Library.
 - "Only a small portion of the Jerome Robbins Dance Division's collections are digitized and available online. Many of the digitized materials, especially moving image and audio recordings, are restricted to consult only at the Library for the Performing Arts. However, the digitized materials in the public domain or for which the NYPL holds copyright are viewable from anywhere. We are adding new material to this site regularly."
 - Select " Exclude Location-Restricted Videos" to filter your search.
 - Featured collections:
 - [Jerome Robbins Archive of the Recorded \(Links to an external site.\)](#), [Mikhail Baryshnikov Archive \(Links to an external site.\)](#), [Dance Theater Workshop Video Archive \(Links to an external site.\)](#), [Victor Jensen Video Archive \(Links to an external site.\)](#), [National Dance Institute Archive \(Links to an external site.\)](#), [PS 122 Archive \(Links to an external site.\)](#), [Merce Cunningham Archive \(Links to an external site.\)](#), [David Gordon Archive \(Links to an external site.\)](#)
- [British Pathé \(Links to an external site.\)](#): Newsreels from British news sources from 1890-present. Covers tours of famous dancers in the 20th century, including Katherine Dunham, Isadora Duncan, and more.
- [Square dance and more! \(Links to an external site.\)](#) The dance video archive displays videos of dances from the member organizations of the Country Dance and Song Society (CDSS).

Video and beyond (photographs, textual artifacts):

- [Library of Congress Performing Arts Digital Collections \(Links to an external site.\)](#): Digitized, publicly accessible resources in the performing arts. Collections of particular note for dance: An American Ballroom Companion: Dance Instruction Manuals, ca. 1490 to 1920; Selections from the Katherine Dunham Collection; Ballets Russes de Serge Diaghilev; [Bronislava Nijinska Collection; \(Links to an external site.\)](#) Martha Graham at the Library of Congress.
 - [Shortcut to films/videos available online \(Links to an external site.\)](#)

- [America's Dance Treasures \(Links to an external site.\)](#): From the Dance Heritage Coalition. Online exhibits and bibliographies for significant American choreographers, dance companies, performers, and dance genres.
- [The Jerome Robbins Dance Division of The New York Public Library \(Links to an external site.\)](#) is the largest and most comprehensive archive in the world devoted to the documentation of dance. Chronicling the art of dance in all its manifestations—ballet, ethnic, modern, social, and folk—the division is much more than a library in the usual sense of the word.
 - "Only a small portion of the Jerome Robbins Dance Division's collections are digitized and available online. Many of the digitized materials, especially moving image and audio recordings, are restricted to consult only at the Library for the Performing Arts. However, the digitized materials in the public domain or for which the NYPL holds copyright are viewable from anywhere. We are adding new material to this site regularly." Select "Search only public domain materials" to filter your search.
 - Some items available to view online:
 - Programs (Ballets Russes and Martha Graham)
 - Photographs (wide variety)
- [Paget-Fredericks Dance Collection \(Links to an external site.\)](#): Held in Online Archive of California. Contains roughly 2,000 original drawings, paintings, photographs and pieces of memorabilia that date from 1913 to 1945, much of which is publicly accessible online. Good for modern dance and early American ballet. Includes notable artists as Isadora Duncan, Anna Pavlova, Ruth St. Denis, and Vaslav Nijinsky.
- [Ballet Russe Drop Collection - \(Links to an external site.\)](#)This site provides access to many photographs of the scenery collection, with brief historical references about each piece. This pictorial exhibit of famous ballet drops is provided courtesy of Stephan Laurent, Professor, Butler University Department of Dance.
- [Fred Fehl Dance Collection \(Links to an external site.\)](#), Harry Ransome Center, University of Texas, consists of images of the Martha Graham Dance Company, the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, the American Ballet Theatre, and the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo. Other companies will be added as digitization is completed.
- [The BAM Hamm Archives \(Links to an external site.\)](#) reveal the 150-year history of the Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM), and also tell a story of the communities — civic and artistic — that made BAM what it is today. The archives contain approximately 3,000 linear feet of materials dating from 1857 to the present, including newspaper clippings, photographs, books, playbills, promotional material, video, architectural plans, posters, administrative records, production elements, art and other materials related to BAM. The archives and its staff provide a rich and unique resource

for researchers interested in BAM artists, the history of performing arts in the United States, and in Brooklyn's social history.

- [Pioneers of Chinese Dance \(Links to an external site.\)](#). A digital photograph collection at the University of Michigan designed to make the history of twentieth-century Chinese dance accessible to international researchers.
- [Plateau Peoples' Web Portal \(Links to an external site.\)](#): This portal is a collaboratively curated and reciprocally managed archive of Plateau cultural materials, including photographs of dances of Plateau tribes. The materials in the Portal have been chosen and curated by tribal representatives. Each item has one or more records associated with it as well as added traditional knowledge and cultural narratives to enhance and enrich understanding to many audiences.
- [Hogan Jazz Archive Digital Collection at Tulane University \(Links to an external site.\)](#): The Hogan Jazz Archive is the leading research center for the study of New Orleans jazz and related musical genres. Digital collections include photographs and performance posters, some of which include dancing to jazz music.

Germany

- [Tanzfonds Erbe \(Links to an external site.\)](#) - A German organization dedicated to making the history of modern dance visible to public sphere. Important because "the international reputations of numerous artists such as Mary Wigman, Dore Hoyer, Tatjana Gsovsky, Rudolf von Laban, William Forsythe or Pina Bausch began in Germany." Includes a list of online dance archives worldwide. Some archival photographs and other ephemeral pertinent to modern dance in Germany appear here. They have also assembled a [list of online dance archives worldwide! \(Links to an external site.\)](#)

[German Dance Archives Cologne \(Links to an external site.\)](#) (Deutsches Tanz Archive Köln) was founded in 1948 by the dancer and teacher Kurt Peters. Today, the Deutsches Tanz Archiv Köln is part of a global network of institutions and initiatives that aims to preserve knowledge of the art of dance. As a center of information, documentation, and research, the Deutsches Tanzarchiv Köln is carrying out a task of national importance.

Archives dedicated to individuals

- [The Isadora Duncan Archive \(Links to an external site.\)](#) and its mission is to maintain and continually expand a comprehensive and non-commercial website which will serve as a centralized resource for locating information and materials on the technique, choreography, philosophy and history of Isadora Duncan and subsequent generations of Duncan practitioners.

- [Katherine Dunham Collection \(Links to an external site.\)](#)

Consists of moving image materials that document the extraordinary journey of a woman who changed the face of American modern dance. Selected materials, including videos of dance technique and fieldwork, are available via this Web presentation.

[Merce Cunningham Dance Capsules \(Links to an external site.\)](#): Digitally preserved Cunningham performances, essential to the study and reconstruction of the choreographic work. Several are public access.