

Research

- **Pinterest**

A powerful image search engine. It can suggest images related to the keywords you are already searching for, which can be helpful at times, but also can get you stuck in a feedback loop. Because it can sometimes be tricky to track when an image was introduced, or where it originated, I suggest being careful when doing time-sensitive trend research.

- **Are.na**

Think of this as an ad-free, algorithm-free, anti-pinterest. I love the way this helps you make connections between projects. Both your own and other artists'. It costs money if you want to unlock the full potential, but it's well worth it. And there's an active community of creators from across disciplines who use it.

- **Vogue Runway**

Runway coverage and show archives going back over 20 years.

- www.voguerunway.com

- **Ecommerce or physical stores**

Stay on top of what customers are buying. Use sort features like "best sellers" to see what's popular. And look at the sale section to see what's slow to go.

- **Instagram**

Listen, we all have an antagonistic relationship with the algorithm, I know. But sometimes it surfaces great things! It's also good to see what "related" images you are being served. Maybe you can find a new rabbit hole.

- **Commercial Patterns Archive**

Maintained by The University of Rhode Island. This sewing pattern archive goes back almost 200 years.

- <https://copa.apps.uri.edu/>

- **Museum Collections**

Many museums have at least part of their collections available to search online. Here are a few of my favorites.

- V&A: <https://www.vam.ac.uk/collections?type=featured>
- The Met: <https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search?>
- FIT: <https://www.fitnyc.edu/museum/collections/index.php>

- **Library**

- Photo collections like NYPL
- Check to see if your library is part of a larger consortium
- University libraries

- **Magazines and newsletters**

Of course there are big names like Vogue, but try to find a newsstand or dig into the magazine section at your local bookstore to unearth new-to-you titles. I love a good Japanese import title myself.

Online newsletters have taken off in the last 3 years. Many of my favorite writers have started their own. Here are some of my favorites:

- [Afterschool](#) by Casey Lewis
- [Close Knit Notes](#) by Ani Lee
- [Today in Tabs](#) by Rusty Foster

- **Trend reports**

I put out a yearly report for knit and crochet designers, but there are plenty of others who do too!

- WGSN
- Campaign Monitor

- **Social listening**

Social listening tools can be VERY expensive, but you can usually find trial versions with limited access available for free or in exchange for your email address.

- <https://answerthepublic.com/>
- [TalkWalker](#)

Organizing Ideas

- **Hard drive**

Starting your own archive/research library is a great way to become acquainted with your personal taste. You can easily reference things you've found and save them to use in the future. Having images saved on your personal device is also a great way to make sure you don't lose access to it in the future.

- **Sketch book or physical folders**

Having something you can easily pull off the shelf or take with you is a great way to act on an impulse and keep momentum going. Plus, as you know, working with physical media is super rewarding in its own way.

- **Pinterest**

An extremely popular platform to search, save, and organize photos. Most people you meet in the fiber arts will know how to use it and already have accounts to access your boards. It's a great tool to use when collaborating with others.

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- **One Note**

This app is like a searchable, digital notebook. You can paste in pictures, doodle, and even write with a stylus like you would on paper and the app will turn it into text like THIS! It's wild stuff.

Homework

- **Gather:** collect at least 20-30 images for inspiration.
- **Sort:** organize your collected images on your hard drive or platform of your choice.
- **Sketch:** create at least 20 sweater ideas.
- **Swatch:** begin work on your swatch. Create at least 3 versions. A version means you used a different needle size or yarn.

Want to share your work during Office Hours?

Pick your top 5 sketches to share. Be prepared to answer the following questions.

- name, location; have you designed a sweater before?
- What made you decide to join Design Lab?
- Where do you usually draw your inspiration from?
- Short description of your designs. ex: how will the body fit? Is it cropped? Close fitting? What materials are you considering?
- Which one you're leaning towards working on in class.

Plan on speaking for ~5 min. We'll do the math when we see how many people join live.

If you cannot make office hours live, you can [submit your work and responses here](#).