Throughout the course of my 4 years here at Kennesaw State University, and being a recent graduate of Art History, I have come to appreciate and value the benefits of utilizing every resource available to me when writing for academic purposes. The library system and research databases at KSU gave me the tools I needed not only to learn more about the subject matter I was choosing to write about, but also to help bolster my respective arguments. In my final research article, I chose to write on the presence of the strength of enslaved female representations of the Antebellum Era, which are a common theme in the art of Contemporary African American artist Kara Elizabeth Walker. I chose to use feminist deconstruction, semiotic analysis, and psychoanalytic theory as my research methodologies in which to formulate and support my arguments and personal opinions. As these methodologies are very complex, it required me to have a wealth of resources at my disposal with which to use as support of my opinions and observations, as well as credible and noteworthy sources to include within the span of my article.

KSU’s *GIL Express* database was one avenue for which I turned to acquire upwards of 11 texts that contained articles, biographical and art historic information, art historic theory concerning Walker’s work, as well as statements and arguments that supported the methodologies mentioned above. It gave me access to the libraries of the entire University System of Georgia, which was undeniably beneficial to me, as the art history texts at KSU are in limited quantities. The texts included the theories of renowned psychoanalysts such as Sigmund Freud and Jacques Lacan, as well as the theories of semiotician Ferdinand de Saussure. Not only was the easy access to these resources helpful in articulating my arguments, they also provided me with an expanse of knowledge on the art of Kara Walker, her life history, the reasons behind her artistic oeuvre, and how her personal experiences concerning race as a minority since the time of her childhood had an effect on her work as a whole. I also made use of KSU’s *Super Search* database to gain access to various articles written by credible art historic theorists on subjects such as the history of physiognomy of enslaved African American individuals during the 19th century, psychoanalytic theory, and methods of deconstruction in which Walker broke the barriers between master versus slave in the Antebellum south with respect to sexual autonomy, power relations, intellect, social status, and inherent “value”.

These two library resources, as well as internet research and the use of knowledge I already possessed on the subject were invaluable to me in crafting my final research article as a future art historian and graduate of Kennesaw State University. I cannot stress enough to fellow students the value of using every resource that is made available to you at KSU to promote your education, your knowledge, and to further support your arguments, observations, and reflect to your professors that you are knowledgeable and passionate about the subject in which you are speaking. Over the course of acquiring my degree, I fell in love with the subject of Art History. Being exposed to it gave me the aspiration to become as knowledgeable and passionate about it as my professors are, which can only be gained through constant education via reading, writing, and extensive research. I wanted this final article in my last semester at Kennesaw State to reflect a desire to make a difference in the realm of art history, to spark conversation, be controversial, and to communicate to fellow students that the quality of one’s writing can only be achieved by hard work, dedication, passion, and a constant development and expansion of one’s knowledge. It has been a sincere pleasure and honor to learn with and among my professors, and they are the reason for instilling in me the desire to continue my education and research, so that I may possess a fraction of the success that they do in the future as an art historian.