

## **FINDING PERIODICAL ARTICLES**

### **WHAT ARE PERIODICALS?**

#### **SCHOLARLY JOURNALS**

#### **POPULAR**

#### **GENERAL INTEREST**

### **FINDING PERIODICAL ARTICLES**

#### **USE RESEARCH ONLINE DATABASE**

#### **LOCATING PERIODICALS IN THE OPAC**

### **WHAT ARE PERIODICALS?**

Periodicals are publications such as magazines, journals, or newspapers. They are issued regularly some daily, weekly, monthly, or quarterly.

Journals and magazines are important sources for up-to-date information in all disciplines.

#### **SCHOLARLY JOURNALS**

Scholarly journals are concerned with academic study, especially research.

They generally have a sober, serious look. They often contain many graphs and charts.

Scholarly journals always cite their sources in the form of footnotes or bibliographies.

Articles are written by a scholar in the field or by someone who has done research in the field.

The language of scholarly journals is that of the discipline covered. It assumes some scholarly background on the part of the reader.

The main purpose of a scholarly journal is to report on original research or experimentation in order to make such information available to the rest of the scholarly world.

Many scholarly journals, though by no means all, are published by a specific professional organization.

#### **EXAMPLES OF SCHOLARLY JOURNALS:**

American Journal of Orthopsychiatry

Archives of Sexual Behavior

JAMA: The Journal of the American Medical Association

Journal of Marriage and the Family

Modern Fiction Studies

Sex Roles: A Journal of Research

## **POPULAR**

Popular periodicals are fit for, or reflecting the taste and intelligence of, the people at large. They come in many formats, although often somewhat slick and attractive in appearance. Lots of glossy graphics photographs, drawings, advertisements, etc.

These publications rarely, if ever, cite sources. Information published in such journals is often second or third hand and the original source is sometimes obscure.

The articles are usually very short, written in simple language and are designed to meet a minimal education level. There is generally little depth to the content of these articles.

The main purpose of popular periodicals is to entertain the reader, to sell products which are their own or their advertisers, and/or to promote viewpoints.

### **EXAMPLES OF POPULAR PERIODICALS:**

Ebony  
Maclean's  
People Weekly  
Readers Digest  
Sports Illustrated  
Time  
Vogue

## **GENERAL INTEREST**

These periodicals may be quite attractive in appearance, although some are in newspaper format. Articles are often heavily illustrated, generally with photographs.

News and general interest periodicals sometimes cite sources, though more often do not.

Articles may be written by a member of the editorial staff, a scholar or a free lance writer.

The language of these publications is geared to any educated audience. There is no specialty assumed, only interest and a certain level of intelligence.

They are generally published by commercial enterprises or individuals, although some originate from specific professional organizations.

The main purpose of periodicals in this category is to provide information, in a general manner, to a broad audience of concerned citizens.

### **EXAMPLES GENERAL INTEREST PERIODICALS:**

Economist  
National Geographic  
New York Times  
Psychology Today  
Scientific American  
Vital Speeches of the Day

To find periodicals when you know the periodical title (Scientific American, Maclean's, Newsweek) search the OPAC by journal title.

### **FINDING PERIODICAL ARTICLES**

To find articles on a subject or topic, you begin by using an online periodical index such as ProQuest. Before you begin ask yourself the following questions:

What kind of periodicals are you looking for?  
scholarly journals?  
newspapers and general news sources?  
popular magazines?  
all three kinds?

A further condition that applies to periodicals for **academic research** is that the periodicals are **scholarly or research oriented**.

News magazines and popular publications like Newsweek, Time, Life, and Rolling Stone are almost NEVER suitable for academic research.

Look instead for journals appropriate to the topic. For example, instead of looking for articles in People Weekly to support the hypothesis that alcoholism is genetically determined, a college researcher should look instead for articles in professional journals such as the Journal of the American Medical Association. Journal articles provide research, whereas popular periodical articles only provide easily digested articles geared toward the general public. For college research, these general purpose articles are not sufficiently detailed, just as encyclopedia articles are too general to support a thesis.

## USE RESEARCH ONLINE DATABASE

Located on the LITC Library page under **Article Databases** see **How to search ProQuest** under the **How--To Guides**

## LOCATING PERIODICALS IN THE OPAC

Looking for Journal titles in the Online Catalog (OPAC)

Type the name of your journal (not the title of your article) in the search box. Under Index name select "Journal title" and search

**Example:** Title: Child Development.

Library has: PRINT: v.45-v.65,no.1; March 1974-February 1994. v.70- ; 1999-

MICROFILM: v.39-v.43; 1968-1972.

MICROFICHE: v.68-v.69; 1997-1998.

Check the dates of the library's holdings! The library does not always have all the issues of a journal. In this example, Vanier has several issue from volume 39, 1968 to the present. They are available in three different formats: microfiche, microfilm and print (paper).

All these issue are on a shelf in the periodical area, E-400.

If **the journal is available in print or any other form**, go to the shelf and find the issue you are looking for, if the issue is on a microfilm or microfiche go to the circulation desk for help.

*Rose de Souza (Librarian)*

*LITC Vanier College January 2006*