



# Bishop Hodges Library

## Periodicals & Periodical Articles

### WHAT ARE PERIODICALS?

Periodicals are publications commonly called journals, newspapers, or magazines. Periodicals are published on an established cycle - usually daily, weekly, monthly, or quarterly. Journals and magazines provide current information in all areas of study. There are four basic categories of periodical literature:

- ❖ **Scholarly** - Scholarly journals are usually formal looking and often have graphs or charts. You will also notice that in scholarly journals authors will always cite the sources they used in a reference list, footnotes, or a bibliography. Articles are always by a scholar in the journal's field of study. The guiding principle for scholarly journals is to publish articles that report research and experiments so that others in the field have access to this information. Scholarly journals may be published by professional organizations within the field of study. Articles published within Scholarly journals are what are referred to as "Peer Reviewed". Some scholarly journals you may be familiar with are *The New England Journal of Medicine* or *JAMA: The Journal of the American Medical Association*.
- ❖ **Substantive News/General Interest** – This type of periodical is usually more exciting to look at, but some may have the appearance of a newspaper. This type of periodical tends to have a lot of photos. Authors rarely cite sources or may just say "in a study published by..." The periodical staff, a scholar, or even a freelance writer could write the published articles. Most of these periodicals are usually published by a for profit commercial entity. These types of periodicals provide access to information to the general educated public. Some Substantive News/General Interest periodicals you may be familiar with are *New York Times* and *Scientific American*.
- ❖ **Popular** - Popular periodicals usually have glossy and attractive covers and pages with lots of photos. You will seldom find authors citing sources within these periodicals. The authors write these articles for the general public and they are readable by someone with a basic education. The guiding principle for these periodicals is to provide entertainment and to sell advertisements. Some Popular periodicals you may be familiar with are *Oprah*, *Bride's*, *People*, *Vogue*, and *Ebony*.
- ❖ **Sensational** - Sensational periodicals are usually in newsprint and are written on a rudimentary level. The guiding principle for these periodicals is to incite and provoke the interest of the reader. Some Popular periodicals you may be familiar with are *Globe*, *National Examiner*, and *Star*.

## WHY PERIODICALS?

Periodical Articles are an important resource in writing research papers. They usually offer the most current research on any subject, and often they are the only source of information for current events.

## HOW TO FIND PERIODICAL ARTICLES:

Finding Periodical articles is a matter of following these three steps: finding the citation, finding out where the periodical is, and getting the article. The Bishop Hodges Library Catalog (Library Books) includes records for all the periodicals that are received by the WJU library. But, the Library Catalog does not include information on the articles within those periodicals. To find individual periodical articles by subject, article author, or article title, you must use periodical indexes.

- **Finding the Citation:** One-Way for WJU students to find the citation is to use electronic indexes and abstracts. WJU students have access to many electronic indexes and abstracts. Visit the library home page at <http://www.wju.edu/library> for access. Click on **Journals & Databases**. Next, click on **Databases**. Here you can view an alphabetical listing of the indexes and abstracts available. To access the selected index/abstract database just click on the hyperlink. Most Databases are available off campus. To access databases remotely; click on **Off Campus Database Access** instead of **Databases**. If you are unsure what database to use for your topic, ask a reference librarian to recommend an index for your topic. Another way to is to use the library's collection of print indexes.
- **Finding Out Where the Periodical Is:** Some of the electronic indexes and abstracts provide links to the full-text article via HTML or PDF. But, others only provide the citation/abstract. To obtain these articles, you will need to use the library's **Journal A-Z List**. From the library home page (<http://www.wju.edu/library>) click on the **Journals & Databases**. Next click on, **Journal A-Z List**. You can search using the alpha list, or enter a phrase in the search box that either: Title begins with, Title equals, Title contains all words, or ISSN equals, or you can select a subject category. If you enter a title name, a list of results that match that title will be displayed. This list will indicate what years are available and where the title is located in either electronic or print format. If you enter, a subject category, a list of subject headings will be displayed with the number of journal titles in ( ). Click on the appropriate hyperlink to review the list of titles, what years are available, and where the title is located in either electronic or print format.
- **Getting the Article:** If the full-text is available via linking within the electronic indexes/abstracts, you need only to print, e-mail, or save the article. If not, then your next step is to use the **Journal A-Z List** to see if you can locate it in either electronic or print via the library's collection. If you cannot obtain the article via the library's electronic or print collection, and you feel it is valuable to your research, consider using interlibrary loan. Use the library's interlibrary loan form for Articles located at <http://library.wju.edu/servicesandpolicies/interlibraryloanform.htm>. Or, from the library's home page, click on **Services & Policies**, and then **Interlibrary Loan**. You should complete as much of the form as possible.

## HOW TO CITE PERIODICAL ARTICLES:

- Citation Guides can be viewed electronically by visiting the Academic Resource Center's Writing Guides home page at [http://www4.wju.edu/arc/writing\\_guide.htm](http://www4.wju.edu/arc/writing_guide.htm).