

Cerritos College Library

In the Wilford Michael Library & Learning Resource Center

FINDING MAGAZINE AND NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

Research on a subject is seldom complete without periodical literature - magazines, journals, and newspapers. A periodical is a magazine, journal or newspaper that is issued at regular intervals. They can be published weekly, monthly, bi-monthly, semi-annually, annually, etc. Periodicals are important sources for up-to-date information on all subjects. In the library, magazines, journals and newspapers are also called serials.

What's the Difference Between Magazines and Journals?

When you work on a research assignment you may be asked to differentiate between magazines and journals. Periodicals that appeal to the general reader are usually referred to as magazines. Journals are scholarly publications, often publishing original research, primary information, or information that has been reviewed by scholars or peers (peer-reviewed). Journals are usually written by scholars in a particular field to be read by professionals or students in that particular field. Journal articles are more scholarly or professional while magazine articles tend to be shorter and more general. Newspaper articles, while not scholarly or professional, can give you the most current news and some additional facts on your topic.

In general:

Magazines:

- *appeal to a broad audience
- *have relatively short articles
- *are written in non-technical language
- *are easy to understand

Journals:

- *have limited readers
- *are written by scholars or experts in the subject
- *use technical vocabulary
- *have a complex writing style

Examples of popular magazines are *Better Homes and Gardens*, *Time*, *U.S. News and World Report*, *People Weekly* and *Sports Illustrated*. Examples of scholarly journals are: *JAMA: The Journal of the American Medical Association*, *African American Review*, *Modern Fiction Studies*, *American Psychologist* and *American Sociological Review*.

Finding Articles on Your Topic

To find magazine, journal, and newspaper articles on your topic, you must use *periodical indexes*. Indexes provide you with subject access to articles in different magazines, journals, and newspapers. They allow you to search in one place for articles published in many different periodicals or in one particular periodical over many years.

Depending on how far back you want to search, you will use either print or online indexes. Older articles, generally anything published before 1985, can usually only be found in print indexes while more recent articles can be found in online indexes. Online indexes are often referred to as **databases** and usually provide the full-text of the article online. If you use a print index to find an older article you'll get only a

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citation and perhaps a brief abstract. You'll have to locate the print or microfilm back issue to read the full article.

Periodical Indexes at the Cerritos College Library

To find articles on your topic, use one of the indexes listed below. Use subject headings or keywords similar to those used to locate books. Online databases allow the use of search logic or "Boolean Logic". Use the words **and**, **or**, **not** to connect your keywords.

Online Databases

Available on the *Library Home Page*

CQ Electronic Library
EBSCOhost
ERIC
Ethnic News Watch
Gale
Gender Watch
Health Source
Literary Reference Center
National Newspapers 5
NewsBank
Project Muse
ProQuest
Science Direct Journals Collection
Science Reference Center

See the *Database Page* for a complete description of the Cerritos College Library online resources. For remote access to the library databases, login to the *Library* using your Cerritos College ID number.

Print Indexes

Shelved in the Periodical Indexes section of the Reference Collection

Biography Index
Business Periodicals Index
Cumulative Index to Nursing & Allied Health Literature
Education Index
Essay and General Literature Index
General Science Index
Humanities Index
Los Angeles Times Index
New York Times Index
Readers' Guide
Social Sciences Index

Helpful Videos

Magazines vs. Popular Magazines

Peabody Library: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VeyR30Yq1tA&feature=related>

Lynn Library: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s6_U9VUHgyQ