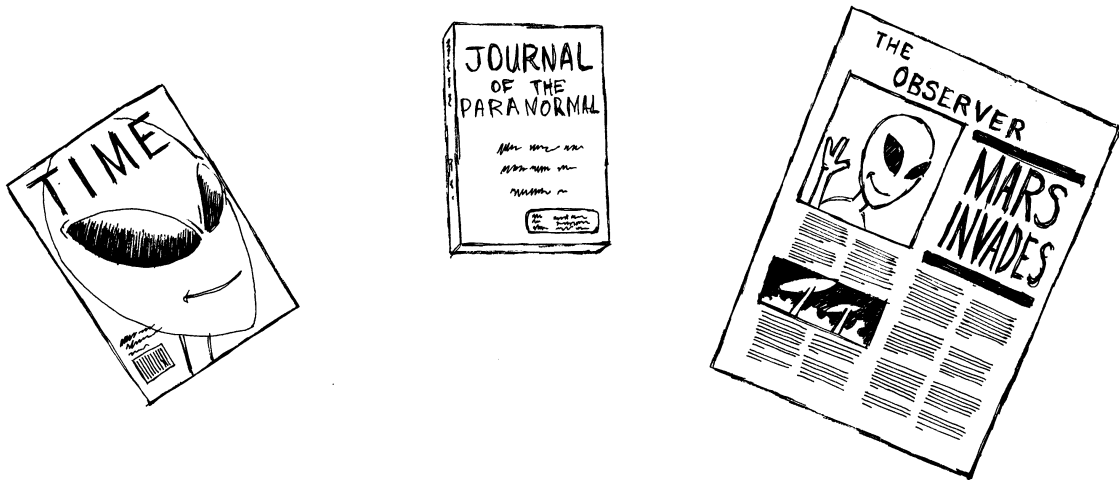


Chapter 4

Finding Information in Periodicals



As discussed in the previous chapter, the library's online catalog is your key to identifying what books and periodicals are held in our library and in the Western North Carolina Library Network (WNCLN). But in order to find specific articles in periodicals, you must move beyond the library's catalog. Indexes and abstracts are your keys to accessing periodical literature. Without them, we would be lost to a world of information published each day in newspapers, magazines, and scholarly journals. First, let's define what exactly we mean by periodicals.

Definition of Periodicals

Periodicals are so called because they are published at regular intervals, be that daily, weekly, monthly, or quarterly. Each publication of a periodical is called an **issue**. Issues generally make up a **volume**. Depending on the nature of the periodical, each issue may contain a few longer articles or many shorter articles by various authors.

Types of Periodicals

In this chapter we will consider:

magazines, which usually include articles on current or popular topics written for a general audience (for example, *Time*, *Newsweek*, *Ebony*, *Sports Illustrated*);

journals, which contain research-oriented articles written by experts for a scholarly or professional audience (for example, *American Historical Review*, *Journal of Counseling Psychology*, *Chaucer Review*, *Journal of Applied Physics*); and

newspapers, such as *The New York Times* and *The Charlotte Observer*, which provide very current information on a variety of topics.

Importance of Periodicals

Periodicals can be important sources for research papers because the information found in them will often times be more up-to-date than that found in books. Sometimes, when books have not yet been written about a subject, the **only** source of information will be periodical articles. This may be especially true for current events, elections, sporting events, research in progress, or the latest developments in the sciences, social sciences, or technology.

Magazines and Journals

Levels of Scholarship

It is important to distinguish between the various levels of scholarship found in magazines and journals and to select publications appropriate to the research you are undertaking. Magazines and journals can be separated into several categories:

Scholarly journals generally have a plain appearance or a serious look about them. They may contain charts and graphs, but few glossy pages or exciting pictures. Scholarly journals always cite their sources in the form of footnotes or bibliographies. The language of scholarly journals is that of the discipline covered, and they assume some scholarly background on the part of the reader. The articles are written by scholars in the field or by those who have completed research in the field and are reporting their results to the rest of the scholarly world. Titles such as *The Classical Review*, *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, *Political Science Quarterly*, and *Journal of Bioethics* fit into this category.

In the world of scholarly journals, **refereed** and **peer reviewed** journals are typically more scholarly and prestigious. Articles in refereed journals are evaluated by at least one subject specialist in addition to the editor before being accepted for publication. Peer reviewed journals may solicit the impartial opinions of several members from the research and academic community before accepting an article for publication.

Informative news/general interest magazines may be attractive in appearance with ample use of illustrations and photographs. Sometimes they cite their sources, but more often they do not. Articles may be written by a member of the editorial staff, a journalist, a scholar, or a freelance writer. Although the writing style may assume a certain level of education on the part of the reader, no special knowledge or background is generally required. The main purpose of periodicals in this category is to provide news and information to a broad audience. Examples include *Time*, *Newsweek*, *The Economist*, *Psychology Today*, and *Natural History*.

Popular magazines are often slick and attractive in appearance with lots of photographs and other graphics. These publications rarely, if ever, cite their sources. Articles are often short, written by staff members or freelance writers in a less sophisticated writing style. These publications are designed to provide entertainment, give practical information, and/or sell an advertiser's products. Some popular magazines include *Family Circle*, *Woman's Day*, *Parents*, *People Weekly*, *Reader's Digest*, and *Vogue*.

Sensational periodicals vary in style, but often use a tabloid format. Their language is less sophisticated and is occasionally inflammatory or sensational. They assume a certain gullibility on the part of their audience. Their purpose tends toward arousing curiosity and catering to popular superstitions. They often have flashy headlines designed to astonish (for example: "12 U.S. Senators are Space Aliens" or "Half-Man Half-Woman Makes Self Pregnant"). Some sensational periodical titles are *The National Enquirer*, *Weekly World News*, *The Globe*, and *The Star*.

These definitions will not apply equally well to all periodicals, but you should keep them in mind as you look for articles. If you are uncertain about the appropriateness of a particular magazine or journal, there are reference books that evaluate periodicals. *Magazines for Libraries* is one title you might consult.

Physical Form and Location

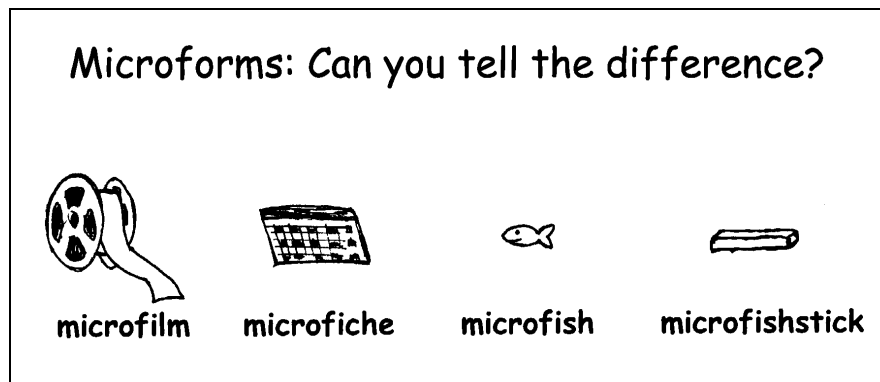
Periodicals in Ramsey Library are all located on the main floor.

Current issues are located on the current periodicals shelves and are arranged by call numbers. "Current" usually indicates issues published during the current calendar year, but with some weekly magazines, "current" may refer only to the last several months or so.

Back issues of periodicals are either:

- **bound** (into books)
- **on microfilm or microfiche** (known collectively as **microforms**)

While both formats are located on the main floor, bound periodicals are shelved by call number, while periodicals on microfilm or microfiche are shelved alphabetically by title in the microforms area.



Periodical Holdings in Our Library

No library can possibly subscribe to the superabundance of magazines and journals currently being published in this country and the rest of the world. To find out what periodicals are held in our library, check the library catalog or Ramsey Library's *Periodicals Holdings List*, copies of which can be found at various locations around the library. Here, you will obtain the following information about each title:

- the years and/or volumes held in our library
- the status of our subscription
- the format of back issues: bound, microfilm, or microfiche
- the call number, which is necessary for both current and bound periodicals

The following entry for the journal *Dance Magazine* is reproduced from the *Periodicals Holdings List*:

Dance magazine
Current issues on current periodical shelves
Bound: v. 44, 1970 - v. 47, 1973
Microfilm: v. 51, 1977 - v. 72, 1998
CALL NUMBER: GV 1580 .D246

This entry tells you that:

- Ramsey Library has a current subscription to *Dance Magazine*, since the top line indicates that there are "Current issues on current periodical shelves."
- Except for volumes 48-50, we own every volume from volume 44 (1970) to the present.
- Volumes 44-47 have been bound.
- Volumes 51-72 are on microfilm.
- The call number is GV 1580 .D246.

Periodicals Not Held by Our Library

It is possible to get a periodical article even if it is one that Ramsey Library does not own. If the periodical is held by one of the other libraries in the Western North Carolina Library Network (WNCLN), you can request it through ABC Express. There is no charge for this service and you should have it within a few days.

To determine whether a particular magazine or journal is held by WCU or ASU look it up in the online catalog by doing a **Periodical Title** search. Entries may vary slightly because each library handles its periodical holdings a little differently. If a magazine or journal is NOT held at any of the three libraries in the network, ask at the Reference Desk about getting a copy of the article through Interlibrary Loan or perhaps through a full-text online database.

Newspapers

We have already pointed out that periodicals are particularly useful for getting up-to-date information about people, events, and ongoing research. But for the most recent information about events in our world, newspapers stand out above all other periodicals. Because newspapers chronicle events from one day to the next, they are excellent historical sources that provide researchers with contemporary accounts of past events. Information from newspapers is generally considered primary source material. In addition, you can use a newspaper to quickly pinpoint the date of an event so that you can then use other indexes and reference books more effectively.

The New York Times deserves special mention among newspapers. In fact, it has been described as our "national newspaper." Because it has been published continuously since 1851, it is of tremendous use as a source of historical material. Since *The New York Times* covers every area of human activity -- political, social, artistic, scientific, athletic, educational, etc.-- and does so both on the national and international level, it can be an important source for almost any topic.

Newspapers in Ramsey Library

The library subscribes to several newspapers in addition to *The New York Times*. We receive papers from major metropolitan areas around the United States, including *The Washington Post* and *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, as well as other papers of more local interest, such as *The Asheville Citizen-Times*, *The News and Observer* (Raleigh, N.C.), and *The Charlotte Observer*. Our subscription list includes some foreign newspapers as well as some special interest newspapers such as *The Wall Street Journal* and *The Chronicle of Higher Education*.

Most newspapers in Ramsey Library exist in two forms:

- **current individual issues** - typically kept on the current periodicals shelves for 2-3 months.
- **back issues on microfilm** - shelved alphabetically in the microform area.

Back issues are retained for some newspapers, but not for all of them. To find out more about Ramsey Library's newspaper subscriptions and holdings, do a **Periodical Title** search in the library catalog or refer to the *Periodicals Holdings List*, just like you would for a magazine or journal.

Newspapers Not Held by Ramsey Library

If our library does not subscribe to a newspaper that you need, it may be available through ABC Express. ASU and WCU subscribe to several newspapers not available in our library including *The Chicago Tribune*, *The San Francisco Examiner*, and *The Times* of London. Newspaper articles can also be requested through Interlibrary Loan and some may be available full-text through *Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe* and other online services. Ask at the reference desk for more details.

Indexes and Abstracts to Periodical Literature

So far, we have discussed what periodicals are and how to find them in the library. But in order to find specific articles contained in periodicals you must use a **periodical index**. Some periodical indexes include **abstracts**, or short summaries of the articles they index

First of all, what exactly is an index? The word index is derived from the Latin word *indicare*, which means "to point out." You use your *index* finger when pointing to give someone directions or when drawing someone's attention to something. Books contain indexes that can point you to pages in the text where specific information can be found. Likewise, a periodical index points you to where specific information can be found in periodicals.

Formats of Indexes

Periodical indexes are available in two basic formats:

- **electronic**

The majority of these are **online**. They are not stored or maintained in the library building, rather, they reside on remote computers connected to the Internet. They may be accessed from public terminals and workstations in the library, other computers on campus with a UNCA Internet address, and, in some cases, remotely from off campus. Libraries still have some periodical indexes on **CD-ROM** (Compact Disc-Read Only Memory), but these are becoming less common.

- **print**

These are typically bound in annual volumes. Although the death of the printed index has been predicted for some time, there are still many subject disciplines, areas of research, and ranges of years for which we continue to rely on print indexes. They will continue to be an important resource for researchers for years to come.

Types of Indexes

Regardless of their format, periodical indexes can be divided into two types:


- **general indexes**, which cover a wide variety of subjects and disciplines. Examples include *InfoTrac Expanded Academic ASAP* and *EBSCOhost Academic Search Elite* (both available online).
- **subject indexes**, which limit their coverage to periodicals in specific subject areas and disciplines. Examples include *Arts & Humanities Citation Index*, *PsycINFO* (for psychology and related fields), and *BIOSIS* (for the life sciences). Subject indexes generally give you access to more articles of a scholarly nature than do general indexes.

The Electronic Index



Basically, all electronic periodical indexes enable you to access periodical articles by entering **search terms**, words or phrases that describe your topic. Some electronic indexes offer features that others do not; some require you to search one way and others another way. **Always read the search and help screens when using an electronic index, especially if you are using the database for the first time.**

Below is a sample screen from *InfoTrac Expanded Academic ASAP*, a great all-purpose **general index** to both magazines and journals.

 **D. Hiden Ramsey Library, UNC Asheville**
Expanded Academic ASAP

Subject guide search

Click in the entry box and enter search term(s)

Browse listing of subjects, people, products, locations and organizations that contain words you entered

Here, we are searching the **Subject guide** for "slime molds."

Subject vs. Keyword Searching

In *InfoTrac*, you can search the **Subject guide** or perform a **Keyword search**. Just like in the library's online catalog, you are given a choice to browse a **controlled vocabulary** of **subjects** or to search using **keywords** of your own choosing. Refer back to Chapter 3 for more information on these two types of searching.

A **Subject guide** search for “**Slime Molds**” allows you to browse a list of subjects and related subjects pertaining to this topic.

D. Hiden Ramsey Library, UNC Asheville
Expanded Academic ASAP

Subjects containing the words: slime molds

Slime Molds
See Myxomycetes

Slime Molds, Cellular
See Acrasiales

Cellular Slime Molds
See Acrasiales

The See reference indicates that the preferred subject in this database for Slime Molds is “Myxomycetes,” the more precise scientific name.

Clicking on the See reference “Myxomycetes” displays a list of periodical citations under that subject heading:

Contact with a solid substratum induces cysts in axenic cultures of Physarum polycephalum amoebae: mannitol-induced detergent-resistant cells are not true cysts. Jennifer Dee, Jennifer L. Foxon, Wendy Hill, Evaline M. Roberts, Muriel H. Walker.
Microbiology April 1997 v143 n4 p1059(11)
[View abstract and retrieval choices](#)

Dictyostelium discoideum cells lacking the 34,000-Dalton actin-binding protein can grow, locomote, and develop, but exhibit defects in regulation of cell structure and movement: a case of partial redundancy. F. Rivero, R. Furukawa, A.A. Noegel, M. Fechheimer.
The Journal of Cell Biology Nov 1996 v135 n3-4 p965(16)
[View abstract and retrieval choices](#)

If you already know something about your topic or are familiar with some of the terms associated with it, a **Keyword search**, when performed correctly, can allow you to customize and narrow your search in ways that Subject searching cannot.

In the case of “Slime Molds,” we know from the [See](#) references in the Subject search on the previous page that “Myxomycetes” and “Acrasiales” are two scientific names associated with “Slime Molds.”

Say you wanted to find some research articles on either of these types of slime molds, your **Keyword search** might look something like this:

Keyword search

Click in the entry box and enter search term(s)

Search for words in title, citation, abstract in entire article content

Type words to search for. You can use AND, OR, NOT. Results are sorted by date.

At this point, we have moved beyond browsing subjects, and are searching for keywords that appear in the subject related fields of each article citation, including the title of the article, the abstract if available, as well as the subjects assigned to the article.

Notice that **AND**, **OR**, and **parentheses ()** are used in this search statement. **Boolean logic** is recognized in electronic periodical indexes, just as it is in the library’s online catalog. (Refer back to Chapter 3 for more information about Boolean operators and searching.)

The following is a sample citation from *InfoTrac*:

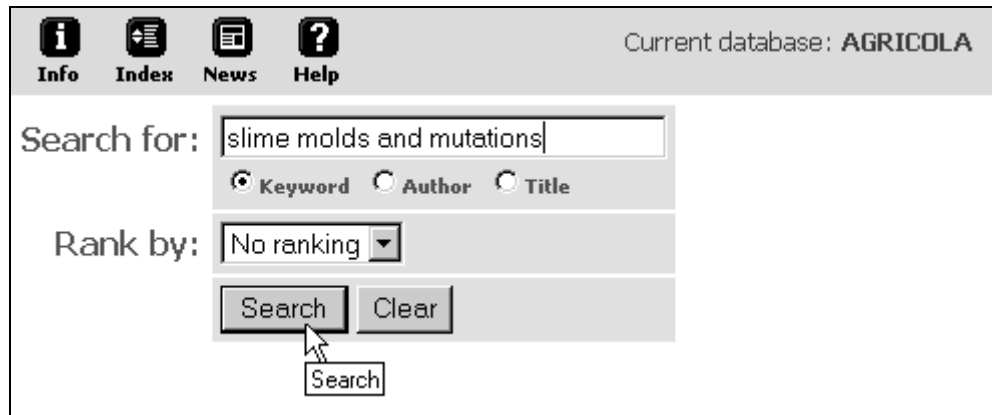
Sense from nonsense: RNA editing in mitochondria of kinetoplastid protozoa and slime molds. Larry Simpson, Otavio H. Thiemann.
Cell June 16, 1995 v81 n6 p837(4)
[View abstract](#)

From this citation we know that:

- The title of the article is “**Sense from nonsense: RNA editing in mitochondria of kinetoplastid protozoa and slime molds.**”
- The authors are Larry Simpson and Otavio H. Thiemann.
- The article appears in the journal *Cell* in the June 16, 1995 issue of volume 81 (issue number 6).
- This article begins on p.837 and is 4 pages long.
- You can see an abstract (a short summary of the article) by clicking on [View](#).

Let's try a slightly different search in another database. The sample screen shot below is from **AGRICOLA**, a database available through the **FirstSearch** online service. **AGRICOLA** is a **subject periodical index** that covers agriculture, biology, botany, and other life sciences.

Here, we are looking for journal articles dealing with "slime molds" and "mutations."



Current database: **AGRICOLA**

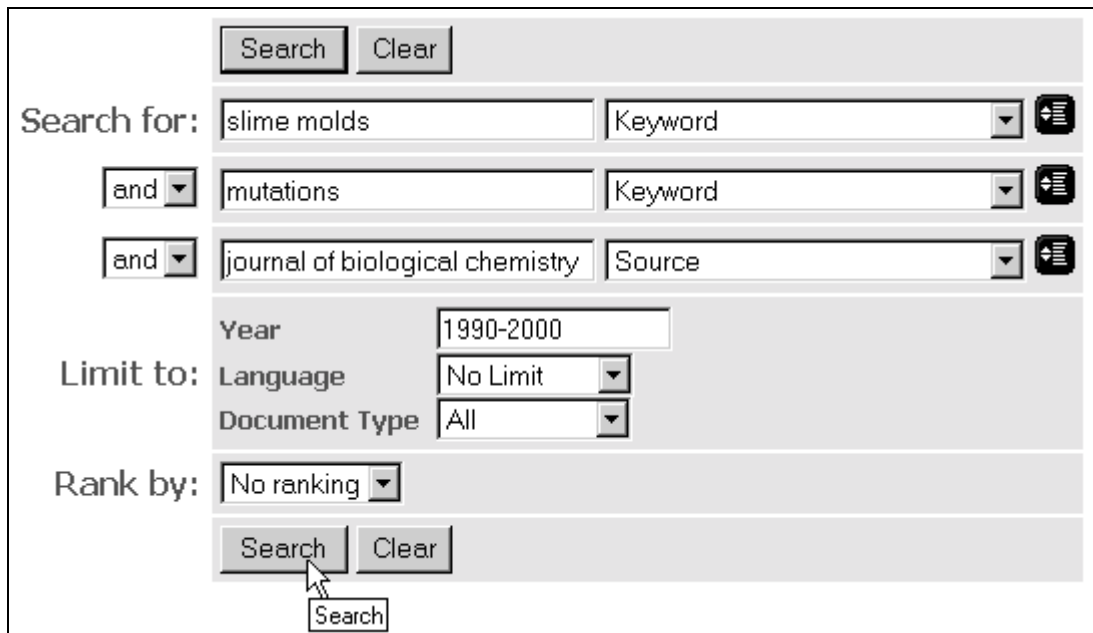
Info Index News Help

Search for:

Keyword Author Title

Rank by:

The **Advanced Search** mode of this database allows you to refine and limit the above search with more detail:



Search for:

Limit to: Year

Language

Document Type

Rank by:

In the **Advanced Search** above, we are still searching for "slime molds" and "mutations," but we have indicated that we are only interested in articles appearing in the *Journal of Biological Chemistry* (called the "Source" in this particular database). Once more, we have limited our search to retrieve only those articles appearing between 1990-2000.

You will find that other electronic periodical indexes offer Advanced Search modes that provide similar limiting functions.

Benefits of Using an Electronic Index

Using an electronic index over a print index has many advantages. Unlike their print predecessors, most electronic periodical indexes allow you to:

- Combine concepts or terms using Boolean logic: **AND, OR, NOT,** & parentheses ()
- Search or limit by a specific periodical title
- Search or limit by a specific range of years
- Combine concept(s) with a known author
- Sort and/or mark relevant records
- Print or download the information retrieved

Full Text: An Added Benefit

Increasingly, electronic periodical indexes like *InfoTrac* and *EBSCOhost* are providing the full-text of selected periodical articles in their databases. This added feature can cut your research time significantly, since you no longer have to hunt down the original periodical article on the shelf.

Be advised! Full-text access does not always mean that you get the entire article as it originally appeared in the publication. Accompanying illustrations, including photographs, graphs, and charts, and occasionally even bibliographies and footnotes may be omitted or reformatted. You may also find omissions and typographical errors that did not occur in the original edited text of the magazine, journal, or newspaper.

Various Electronic Indexes to Choose From

The number of electronic indexes available to you can be overwhelming. Remember that **general indexes** cover a wide array of topics and **subject indexes** cover a specific subject area, discipline, or disciplines. Think critically when deciding what database to use and when. Always ask yourself what broad discipline or subject area your topic falls under.

For example, if your topic is related to the social sciences, then you might want to give *Social Sciences Abstracts* or *Sociological Abstracts* a try. If your topic is more specific than that, such as clinical psychology, then *PsycINFO* may be the index for you.

Make the most of your time in the library. Always ask a Reference Librarian to direct you to the proper index for your subject if you are having trouble deciding.

Database Differences

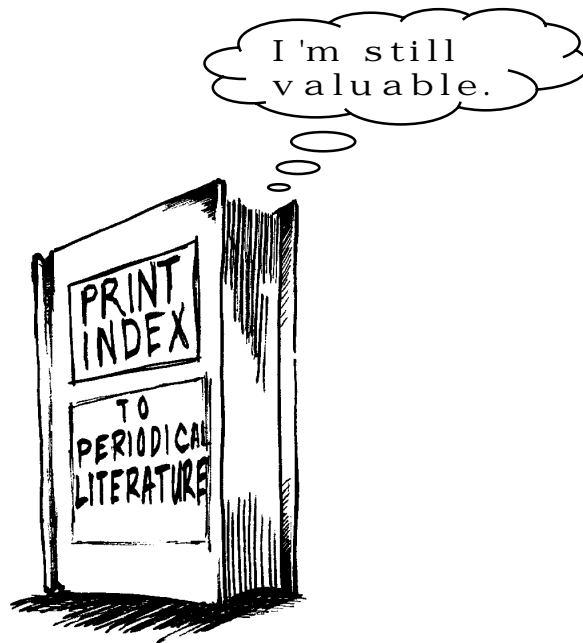
It is important to remember that electronic periodical indexes are produced by different companies and vendors, just like print indexes and other library resources. Each is designed somewhat differently with its own search engine, search methods, key strokes, and commands.

Many subject areas and disciplines use their own **controlled vocabulary**, which must be taken into consideration when using some subject indexes. Two notable examples are education and psychology. The subject index for education, *ERIC*, recognizes official terms or “descriptors” developed by the Educational Resource Information Center (ERIC) under the U.S. Department of Education.

PsycINFO, the subject index for psychology, uses official terms assigned by the American Psychological Association (APA). A **thesaurus** of the vocabulary used in each index is available in both print and electronic formats. Ask at the reference desk for more information.

The Print Index: Still a Valuable Resource

There will be times when you will need to use a print index. It may be that the library does not subscribe to the electronic version of the index that supports your subject or discipline, as is the case with *Philosopher's Index*, or it may be that the years of publication that you wish to search are not included in the electronic version. *Art Index*, for example, has been published in its print form since 1929, but the electronic version only covers 1984 to the present. In order to access periodical articles before 1984 in art, you would need to go to the print index shelves.



Using a Print Index

To show how a print index to periodical literature is constructed, we have included the following sample from *Art Index* (October 1941 - September 1944).

<p>SUPERSTITION <i>See also</i> Amulets Ghosts Magic</p> <p>SUPERVISING architect's office. See United States—Supervising architect, Office of</p> <p>SUPPORTS, Paint. See Paint supports</p> <p>SURDAS, 16th cent. See Jaganāth, jt. artist</p> <p>SURGICAL sutures. See Sutures</p> <p>SURNAMES. See Names, Personal</p> <p>SURREALISM American realists and magic realists, ed. by D. C. Miller and A. H. Barr, jr. Review Art Digest 17:23 Mr 1 '43 Gaz Beaux Arts s6 v24:127 Ag '43 Americans 1943: realism and magic realism at Museum of modern art. il Art Digest 17:1, 6+ F 15 '43 Child as surrealist. R. S. Griffin. il Design 43:16-19 N '41 Confound the wise, by N. Calas. Review Art N 41:26 O 15 '42. L. Kochnitzky J Aesthetics 2 no8:93-4 '43 Degree of sanity: art of the insane, the art of nature, and the art of the surrealist at Art of this century. Art Digest 18:17 D 15 '43 Feminine surrealists at Art of this century. Art Digest 17:13 Ja 15 '43 Freedom in art. J. R. Tuttle. J Aesthetics 2 no8:45-53 '43 From cubism to surrealism in French literature, by G. E. Lemaître. Review Burl M 82:78 Mr '43 Burl Mag 84:78 Mr '44 Gaz Beaux Arts s6 v24:63-4 J1 '43 Great flight of culture; twelve artists in U.S. exile. il(col) Fortune 24:102-15 D '41 Incurable and curable romantics; psychoanalysis points to the surrealists' way out. N. Calas. Art N 40:27-8+ D 1 '41 Is the sharp focus clear? Realists and magic realists; exhibition, Modern museum. D. Brian. il(pt col) Art N 42:18-20+ Mr 1 '43 John Atherton, sure realist at Julien Levy gallery. il Art N 41:25 Mr 15 '42 Miles of string; exhibition at Whitelaw Reid mansion. Art Digest 17:7 N 1 '42</p>
--

Notice how the subjects (bold and in upper case) are arranged alphabetically. *See* and *see also* references are used to direct the user to appropriate or additional subject headings.

There may be slight variations in the format of citations from index to index, but the basic information will be the same. Often magazine or journal titles will be abbreviated. Look in the front of the index volume for a key to abbreviations of periodicals indexed.

Take a look at this typical citation from a print index:

<p>Women</p> <p>Nutrition</p> <p>Incidents of eating disorders among selected female university students. J.P. Fredenberg and others. bibl il <i>J Am Diet Assoc</i> v96 p64-5 Ja '96</p>

This citation refers to an article listed under the subject heading **Women** and the subheading **Nutrition**. The article is called "Incidents of Eating Disorders among Selected Female University Students" and was written by J. P. Fredenberg and others. It appeared in volume 96 of *Journal of the American Dietetic Association* on pages 64-65 of the January 1996 issue. It includes a bibliography (bibl) and illustrations (il).

Being able to decipher the index citations is essential to your success in finding the articles to which they refer. If you have questions about interpreting the information included in a given citation, refer to the front of the index volume for explanations and instructions or ask a reference librarian for help.

Indexes to Newspapers

Indexes to newspapers are available in both print and electronic formats. Electronic indexes such as *Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe* provide access to numerous regional, national, and international newspapers, including *The Asheville Citizen-Times*, *The Washington Post*, and *The Times* of London. But because few electronic indexes cover newspaper articles appearing before 1980, the print newspaper index remains a valuable resource.

The New York Times Index is perhaps the most important print newspaper index around. Not only does it index our "national newspaper," but it can also help you find information that appeared in other newspapers that lack indexes of their own. If you use *The New York Times Index* to determine the date of an event, you could then look in other newspapers of the same date to find articles on the same event. This could be especially useful if the event only received a slight mention in *The New York Times* but would have received fuller, more in-depth coverage in a local newspaper.

Using *The New York Times Index*

Each citation in *The New York Times Index* **will include:**

- a summary of the contents of the article
- an indication of the length of the article (S = Short; M = Medium; L = Long)
- the month and day the article appeared
- the section, page, and column in which the article was located

The citation **will not tell you:**

- the title of the article (you must actually look at the article in the paper to see the title)
- the year (you must get that from the volume of the index you are using)

The following is a sample citation from the 1990 *New York Times Index*:

BANGLADESH. See also

Japan, Ja 3

Presence of opposition parties in this year's Bangladeshi elections demonstrates democracy, but may threaten local power of ruling Jatiya Party; photo; map (M), F 16,A,4:3

From this, you can tell that:

- this citation refers to an article listed under the subject heading **Bangladesh**
- Other articles dealing with Bangladesh may be found under the subject heading **Japan** dated January 3 (**See also** Japan, Ja 3).
- the article deals with opposition parties in Bangladeshi elections.
- a photo and a map accompany the article.
- it is a Medium length article (M).
- the article appeared in the February 16 (F 16) newspaper.
- A,4:3 indicates that the article was in section A, on page 4, in column 3. The location information will always be in this order:

DATE, SECTION, PAGE: COLUMN

In the example, a letter designates the section of the newspaper in which the article appears. For some dates, Roman numerals are used as section

designators (I, II, III, IV, etc.), so you might just see a location that looks like this: F 9,IV,3:1

As of 1990, the section indicators used in the index match the actual indicators used in the newspaper. Before 1990, however, Roman numerals were used in the index to indicate **all** sections, even if the sections in the actual newspaper were designated with letters. So if you are using an older volume of the index, you may have to turn Roman numerals into their corresponding letters when you go to the newspaper (for example, I = A, II = B, III = C, IV = D, etc.)

Below is a sample section from the 1984 *New York Times Index*. Notice how the citations under a subject heading are listed chronologically by date of publication.

SPACE Weapons

Flora Lewis Op-Ed column on little-noticed bill in Congress which would make new Air Force Space Command into overall space command, create Army Space Command for ground-based space weapons, establish a single agency for directed-energy weapons, take military missions of space shuttle away from NASA and direct NASA to launch a manned space station; says bill holds seeds of military commitment that could be momentous for fate of US and should be rejected (M), Ja 6,1,23:1

US Air Force announces it has conducted first test in flight of advanced missile designed to destroy satellites; test, in California, involved only booster and booster guidance system and did not involve target; test of missile, US Air Launched Miniature Vehicle Anti-Satellite (ASAT) seems likely to increase debate over weapons in space (M), Ja 22,1,1:6

Article by Rep Fortney H Stark on need for US to avoid 'star wars'; says Pres Reagan was misguided in his reaffirmation of space weapons, made on Jan 21 when F-15 antisatellite missile was tested at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif; holds such tests could lead to arms race in space; drawing (M), F 1,1,27:2

President Francois Mitterrand of France proposes that western Europe launch manned space station for military defense (S), F 9,11,15:2

Tom Wicker Op-Ed column says arms race in outer space is not necessary; notes Reagan Administration officials' claim that arms control treaty is not feasible, since it would be impossible to verify; holds that their assertions are so at odds with judgment of independent authorities that it is easy to conclude that Reagan Administration is not interested in arms control option for space weapons, Mr 2,1,27:2

US Assistant Sec of Defense for International Security Policy Richard N Perle, testifying before Armed Services strategic warfare subcommittee, says it would be 'extremely difficult, if not impossible' to verify that Soviet Union was complying with any treaty to prohibit weapons capable of destroying space satellites; predicts White House will take similar view; says his remarks represent Defense Department and 'intelligence community' views (M), Mr 16,1,8:1

Union of Concerned Scientists holds that space-based defense that would protect US against attack by ballistic missiles is technologically 'unattainable,' saying USSR

Finding Book Reviews in Periodicals

There are other kinds of information available in periodicals in addition to news and research articles. Magazines, journals, and newspapers often feature book reviews, which can be important information to help you judge the quality of a book. Reviews can help you see how a particular book fits into the literature of the subject and how it was evaluated by others in the author's field of study.

Types of Book Review Indexes

The best place to locate a review of a particular book will be determined by the subject matter of the book.

General book review indexes are usually a good place to start for reviews of fiction and nonfiction books on all subjects. Some examples include:

Book Review Digest (1905-present)
Book Review Index (1965-present)
Combined Retrospective Index to Book Reviews in Scholarly Journals (1886-1974)
National Library Service Cumulative Book Review Index
(1905-1974)

There are also **subject book review indexes**:

Index to Book Reviews in the Humanities (1961-present)
Index to Book Reviews in Historical Periodicals (1973-present)

Most periodical indexes include book reviews. Some recent reviews can be found in *InfoTrac*, *EBSCOhost*, and other electronic indexes. For older reviews, you may wish to consult a print index in the book's related field, many of which contain separate sections with references to book reviews. A partial list of subject periodical indexes that index book reviews includes:

America: History & Life
Applied Science and Technology Index
Art Index
Business Periodical Index
Education Index
General Science Index
Historical Abstracts
Humanities Index
Religion Index: One
Social Sciences Index
Women Studies Abstracts

Book Review Digest, available as an electronic database and in print, actually reproduces excerpts or portions of the reviews. It includes publication information for the book, a brief description of the book, citations for reviews, and excerpts from some of those reviews.

Locating Reviews

To find reviews of a book using an index, it helps to know the correct title of the book and the date of publication. You should begin with the index volume for the year of the book's publication; then, if you find no reviews there, look in the next several years. Books, especially of the scholarly type, are sometimes reviewed months or even years after they are first published.

Chapter 4 Exercises

1. What is a periodical? _____

2. Name three types of periodicals.

3. What is the difference between a **magazine** and a **journal**? _____

4. Why are periodical articles typically important sources of information? _____

5. Scholarly journals always cite their sources in the form of footnotes or bibliographies.
True / False
6. a. Using the *Periodicals Holdings List* or the library catalog, find out whether Ramsey Library has a current subscription to the *Journal of Modern African Studies*.
Yes / No

b. What is the volume number and year of the first volume of this journal that we have in the library?

c. Are the back issues of this journal bound, on microfilm, or on microfiche?

d. Use the call number to locate the most current issue on the current periodical shelves. Examine the current issue. What is the level of scholarship?

scholarly journal / informative news magazine / popular magazine
7. a. Using the *Periodicals Holdings List* or the library catalog, find out if Ramsey Library has **volume 14** of the journal *Physics Teacher*.
Yes / No

b. Does WCU or ASU own **volume 14** of the journal *Physics Teacher*?

WCU ____ ASU ____

c. How could you get a copy of this volume of *Physics Teacher*?

8. Where and in what format are back issues of Ramsey Library's newspaper holdings kept?

9. *InfoTrac Expanded Academic ASAP* is an example of what kind of periodical index?

General / Subject

10. The following citation has been reproduced from *InfoTrac*:

"Not just for bikers anymore": popular representations of American tattooing.

Margo DeMello.

Journal of Popular Culture Winter 1995 v29 n3 p37(16)

[View](#) abstract and retrieval choices

a. What is the title of the article? _____

For this article, give:

b. author of the article _____

c. name of journal _____

d. date of the journal _____

e. volume number of the journal _____

f. issue number of the journal _____

g. page numbers of the article _____

h. Is there an abstract? Yes / No

11. Some periodical indexes include abstracts. What is an **abstract**? _____

12. You need some articles on how the **absurd** is depicted in the plays of **Beckett** or **Ionesco**. Which one of the following would be your best **keyword** search in an electronic periodical index?

- a. (beckett or ionesco) and absurd
- b. (beckett and ionesco) and absurd
- c. beckett and absurd or ionesco and absurd
- d. absurd beckett ionesco
- e. absurd or (beckett and ionesco)

13. The following citations are from the 1990 *New York Times Index*:

BANK OF NEW ENGLAND CORP. See also
Connecticut, Ja 31
Citicorp says it is interested in buying credit card operations and other assets of Bank of New England Corp (S), Ja 23,D,5:4
Bank of New England Corp, in midst of race to raise cash to cover decline in deposits, begins borrowing from Federal Reserve Bank of Boston (M), Ja 27,I,47:3

- a. Under what subject heading are these citations listed? _____
- b. On what date and under what other subject heading could you also find an article about the Bank of New England Corp.? _____

For the article that deals with Citicorp and the Bank of New England Corp., give the following information:

- c. date of the article _____
- d. section _____

- e. page _____
 - f. column _____
 - g. Is the length of the article in the first citation short, medium, or long? _____
 - h. Is the length of the article in the second citation short, medium, or long? _____
 - i. How would you determine the titles of these articles? _____

14. a. In what ways are book reviews useful? _____

- b. To find a book review of a certain book, you only need to examine the volume of the book review index that covers the year in which the book was published.
- True / False
15. From the Ramsey Library home page (<http://bullpup.lib.unca.edu/library/>) you will find links to numerous general and subject periodical indexes under **Electronic Resources**. Browse **Electronic Resources** by **Subject** to discover some subject periodical indexes that pertain to your major or area of interest.

Answers Chapter 4

1. A periodical is a publication that is published at regular intervals (for example, weekly or monthly).
2. magazines, journals, newspapers
3. A **magazine** includes articles on popular or current topics written for a general audience. A **journal** contains research-oriented articles written by experts for a scholarly or professional audience.
4. Periodical articles can be important sources of information because they often contain more up-to-date information than that found in books.
5. True
6. a. Yes
b. vol. 8, 1970
c. both bound and microfilm
d. scholarly journal
7. a. No
b. WCU - yes ASU - yes
c. through ABC Express
8. Microforms area - on microfilm
9. General
10. a. "Not just for bikers anymore: popular representations of American tattooing"
b. Margo DeMello
c. Journal of Popular Culture
d. Winter 1995
e. 29
f. 3
g. 37-52 (16 pages long)
h. Yes
11. An abstract is a short summary of the contents of an article.
12. a.
13. a. Bank of New England Corp.
b. Connecticut, January 31, 1990
c. date: January 23, 1990
d. section: D
e. page: 5
f. column 4
g. (S) = short
h. (M) = medium
i. Locate the articles in the actual newspaper.
14. a. Book reviews can help you judge the quality of a book. They can help you see how it fits into the literature of a subject and how it was evaluated by others in the same field.
b. False. You should begin with the index volume for the year of the book's publication; then, if you find no reviews there, look in the next several years.
15. (No single correct answer for this exercise.)