How to Locate Periodical Articles

What is a periodical? A publication that comes out at regular intervals (weekly, monthly, quarterly, etc.). It can be a magazine, journal, or newspaper. The library has a small collection of print subscriptions, more likely you will access articles through the online databases found on the library home page of the mcckc website. http://mwlibrary.mcckc.edu.

What is the difference between the Online Databases and an Internet search? Information on the Web is freely available to anyone with Internet access. You must evaluate what you find more carefully because anyone can put information on the Internet. Periodical websites may charge you a fee for articles.

Online databases are web-based sources of periodical articles and reference information to which the library subscribes. Most of the articles indexed are available as full-text articles, in which you get every word that appeared in the magazine, journal, or newspaper. Because most information in subscription online databases has gone through an editorial process where one or more people evaluate manuscripts, the information is more credible.

What is a citation? The information needed to find or cite an article: the author of the article, title of the article, title of the periodical, date, pages (and which database you searched, if applicable, and the date on which you searched it). Most of the databases offer a citation tool located on a toolbar once you have opened an article. The reference side of the library has handout/guides to the various citation styles.

What is an abstract? A short summary of an article.

Searching the Databases

What are key concepts of your research? From your thesis statement use only the key concepts/words as search terms. Connect these with the word “and” to make your search more specific.

What related words can you use? Use these now to revise your search. Use these later if you need more articles.

Are you getting too many articles? Use “and” to narrow your search. Use “not” to narrow your search. Use quotation marks around your search terms, especially names, to narrow your search. Check the Library of Congress Subject Headings for narrower terms.

Are you not getting enough articles? Use synonyms and related terms. Use the terms/synonyms suggested by the databases. Use “or” to broaden your search. Use alternative spellings. Check the Library of Congress Subject Headings for broader terms. Use truncation. (Example: comput* will bring up articles with the words compute, computers, computing, or any word that begins with that root.)

Are the articles you retrieve relevant? Read the abstract, it gives a short summary of what the article is about. Skim or read the article.
These databases contain periodical articles:

**EBSCOhost:**
- Academic Search Elite
- Consumer Health Complete
- GreenFILE
- MAS Ultra
- MasterFILE Premier
- Newspaper Source
- Professional Development Collection
- Psychology & Behavioral Sciences Collection
- Science Reference Center
- Sociological Collection

**Gale Group:**
- Health Reference Center Academic
- Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center

**Issues and Controversies**
- JSTOR
- LexisNexis
- NewsBank

**ProQuest Research Library:**
- Criminal Justice Periodicals
- ProQuest Nursing & Allied Health Source
- ProQuest Research Library (multidisciplinary)