

PERIODICALS

What are periodicals?

In the library the terms periodicals and serial are used to refer to materials which are produced in many parts or editions over a period of time. A newspaper, for instance, is a serial because it is not complete in one printing, but has a new edition every day. Similarly an almanac is a serial because a new edition comes out every year. Periodicals may be issued daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly, annually or at other regular or irregular intervals.

What are journals?

"Scholarly" or "professional" journals are a type of periodical devoted to the ongoing interests of a particular group or field of study. Their focus is quite narrow, the articles are written by and for experts in a particular field, and many journals are *referred*. A referred, or peer reviewed, journal is one which prints only the articles that have been read and approved by a panel of independent experts who evaluate the submissions.

Why use periodicals?

Journals are important to college research assignments because they provide the most recent information on a subject, and they cover topics which are too new, too obscure or too ephemeral to be in books. Articles in periodicals are helpful in comparing different viewpoints on a specific issue. Additionally trends of interest for a period of time can be traced in periodical literature.

In addition to journals, periodicals include newsletters, bulletins, newspapers, proceedings and magazines. Serials may refer to all the above plus annuals, yearbooks, almanacs, indexes and loose-leaf services.

In library catalogs such as LINCC, periodical *holdings* refer to the volumes and issues of a periodical title which the library owns.

What is full text?

Periodical articles may also be obtained through electronic means. In electronic formats *full text* articles means only the typed text of the article is available, but no pictures, illustrations or graphs which might have accompanied the article in the printed format, are available. *Full image* articles include all the graphics as well as the text.