

Glendale College Library Workshop

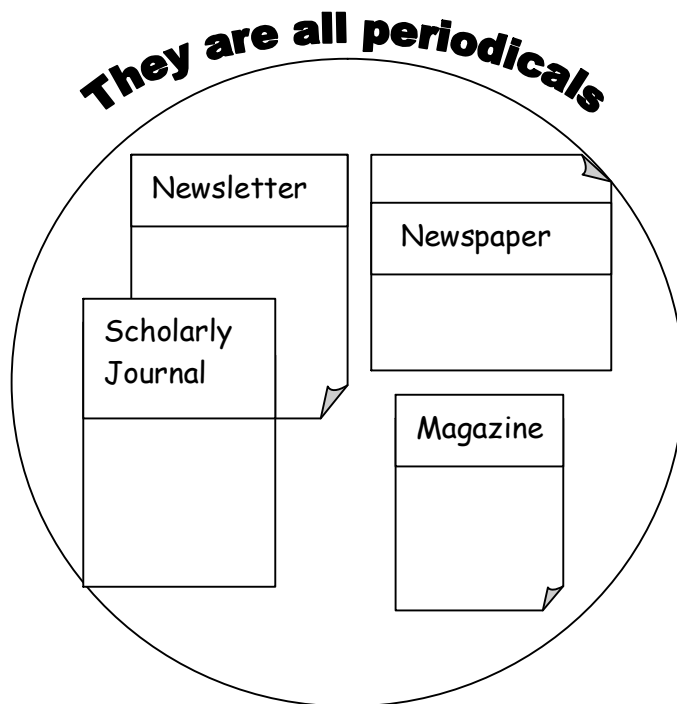
Locating Journal & Newspaper Articles

Glendale Community College Library subscribes to many journals and newspapers in print and online (accessible via the World Wide Web). When researching a topic, you don't need to look through each journal or newspaper individually. There are print and electronic **indexes** and **databases** to help you quickly search through many journals and newspapers simultaneously. Some indexes and databases only provide **citations** and **abstracts**, but many provide **full-text** of the articles.

Index – A tool which helps locate articles in the thousands of journals published each month.
Database – An organized collection of information, usually electronic.

Citation - the bibliographic information which is necessary to locate a book, an article, or some other material -- author, title, name of journal or name of publisher, date, pages, volumes, etc.

Abstract – a summary of an article.



A **periodical** is a publication which appears at regular intervals, each issue of which is numbered or dated consecutively, and contains separate articles, essays, stories, or other writings. **Magazines, journals, newspapers, and even newsletters** are all types of periodicals.

Locating Journal & Newspaper Articles Problem-Based Exercise

Basics of Online Databases: Although databases have different designs, there are some basic features they all share. Familiarizing yourself with these features makes it easier to learn a new database. Some of the most important features include:

- **help button** – use this feature first for information on how to use that particular database
- **text box** – use this space to enter your search term(s)
- **search button** – use this button to activate your search
- **date** – use this option to indicate the year(s) you want to search

In addition to these basic features, there are usually other features that can help you with your search. Once you learn to recognize these features, you can figure out any new database on your own. Some more specific search features include:

- a list of journals/publications included in the database
- legends (guides which explain symbols used on the page) or informational guides
- options which allow you to limit your search (**Example:** searching only for editorials)

Locating Journal & Newspaper Articles Problem-Based Exercise

For the purpose of this library workshop, you have the following hypothetical assignment:

You are doing research for a 5-8 page paper on the topic you have chosen (see below). Your instructor requires that you use at least one scholarly or peer-reviewed journal article as one of your sources of information. Your other sources may be magazine and/or newspaper articles.

Check the topic below which interests you most and use it for this exercise:

- Graffiti: is it art or vandalism?
- Marijuana laws
- What is the connection between TV-viewing and learning/development in children?

Note: If you already have a topic that you are researching for a class assignment, you may use your real-life topic for this exercise. If you are using your own topic, write it here:

This exercise asks you to explore some of the Library's databases as you do the research for this project. Write down all the steps in your research process on the worksheet below. You might be asked to demonstrate your search during our discussion; the notes you make will help you give an outstanding presentation.

PART I:

ProQuest is the biggest, most complete database we have at GCC. It's a good place to start with just about any topic because it includes many kinds of articles—newspaper, magazine, journals—in all different subject areas.

1. From GCC Library's homepage click on the tab at the top of the page that says **Article Databases**. Scroll down through the list of databases. Find **ProQuest**; click on it to open the database.
2. Write in the space below the terms (words) you will use to search for articles on your topic in **ProQuest**:

3. List ALL the steps you take to search for articles on your topic in **ProQuest**. (Examples: How/where did you enter your search terms? Did you limit your search in any way? Did you use the "Help" menu?):

Locating Journal & Newspaper Articles Problem-Based Exercise

4. Describe the results of your search (Examples: How many results did your search retrieve? Are the results relevant to your research topic? How can you tell if the articles are relevant or not?)



PART II:

In this part of the workshop, you will search for periodical articles on the same topic as in PART I, but this time search a different database. Write down all the steps in your search process on the worksheet below. Compare the second database with your previous experience using **ProQuest**. Think about ways they are similar and ways they are different.

5. From GCC Library's homepage click on the link: **Database Descriptions**. Based on the information you find in this list of databases, choose a database that you think will be likely to have magazine, journal, and/or newspaper articles on your topic. What is the name of the database you have chosen? _____
6. Write in the space below the terms (words) you will use to search for articles on your topic in this database:
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7. List ALL the steps you take to search for articles on your topic (Examples: How/where did you enter your search terms? Did you limit your search in any way? Does this database have a similar interface to **ProQuest**? How is it different?):
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8. Describe the results of your search (Examples: How many results did your search retrieve? Are the results relevant to your research topic? How do your results compare with the search you did in the first database? Did this database help you to locate scholarly or peer-reviewed articles?)
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9. In your opinion, which database was a better source of information for your topic?
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