

PERIODICAL, JOURNAL or MAGAZINE

What's the difference?

- Alfred C. O'Connell Library –

A **PERIODICAL** is a publication which is issued at regular intervals—daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly, etc. Periodical articles provide concise, current and focused information. They have a variety of purposes and audiences, and can include news, opinions, reviews, scholarly analysis and research. Periodicals are often divided into two categories—general or specialized.

GENERAL PERIODICALS, also called **MAGAZINES**, have articles on many subjects, are usually written in a popular style for the general public, and often include short articles, news reports, photographs, illustrations and advertisements. *Time*, *New Republic*, and *Sports Illustrated* are examples of general periodicals.

SPECIALIZED PERIODICALS, also called **JOURNALS** or **PROFESSIONAL PERIODICALS**, contain articles pertaining to a particular subject or profession.

These can include **PROFESSIONAL TRADE JOURNALS**, which contain articles on current trends and practices in a particular field, notices of meetings, product information, job openings, etc. Examples of professional trade journals include *Advertising Age*, *Nursing Outlook*, and *Information Today*.

Another type of specialized periodicals are **ACADEMIC** or **SCHOLARLY JOURNALS**. *The American Journal of Psychology*, *Child Development*, and *Harvard Business Review* are examples of scholarly journals. The articles in these types of periodicals are written by and for researchers, practitioners, and experts in a given field, and are usually quite lengthy. They contain reports of original research (also known as “empirical” research), analysis and discussion of prior research, literature reviews, etc.

HOW TO FIND PERIODICAL ARTICLES

➡ The fastest, most efficient way of finding periodical articles is to use a **periodical index**. A periodical index lists articles by subject and author, and refers to the periodicals where they may be found.

At the GCC library, you will find both general and specialized indexes. To find magazine articles use a general index, such as The Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature (a printed index) or an online index such as Academic Search Premier. To find articles in science journals or professional periodicals use a specialized online index such as MEDLINE or Science Direct. InfoTrac OneFile is an excellent online index to search for articles in either general or specialized periodicals. To find other online indexes, go to <http://www.genesee.edu/library/dbsubjdb.htm>.

Genesee Community College

PERIODICALS

Types & Examples	Audience & Use	How to Find
<p><u>Newspapers</u> Batavia Daily News Buffalo News New York Times Rochester Democrat & Chronicle Wall Street Journal</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ General public ▪ Current Information ▪ News, features, editorials, text of speeches, etc. ▪ Geographic focus 	<p>New York Times (current and historical) InfoTrac OneFile New York State Newspapers Custom Newspapers Browsing current issues</p>
<p><u>Magazines</u> Time Newsweek New Yorker Popular Science Sports Illustrated Forbes National Review</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ General public ▪ Nontechnical language ▪ Current events and political commentary ▪ Book and movie reviews ▪ How to articles ▪ Photographs, ads 	<p>Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature InfoTrac OneFile Academic Search Premier Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center</p>
<p><u>Professional Trade Journals</u> Information Today Nursing Outlook FBI Law Enforcement Broadcast & Cable Travel Weekly</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Practitioners in specific fields ▪ Current trends & practices ▪ New product info., meetings, job openings, ads 	<p>Business & Company Resource Center InfoTrac OneFile CINAHL Plus with Full Text ERIC</p>
<p><u>Academic Journals</u> Harvard Business Review Science Journal of Abnormal Psychology Physical Therapy JAMA Journal of Marriage and the Family Social Problems</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Researchers, practitioners, experts in a given field ▪ Technical language ▪ Original research reported & discussed ▪ Book reviews, statistics, bibliographies ▪ Often refereed/peer reviewed (articles reviewed by experts before publication) 	<p>InfoTrac OneFile Academic Search Premier Specialized indexes: PsycInfo Science Direct Business Source Premier Medline CINAHL Plus with Full Text ERIC</p>