

# ✧ Finding and Assessing Periodicals ✧

## What is a periodical?

A periodical is a resource published on a regular or periodic basis. Periodicals include newspapers, popular magazines, trade journals, journals of opinion, and scholarly journals (also known as peer-reviewed, refereed, or research journals). See below for information on identifying and locating different types of periodicals at the Syracuse University Library.

## Clues

When trying to distinguish one type of periodical from another, consider certain characteristics such as:

- **Title:** Does it include the word “journal,” “magazine,” etc.? How general or specific is it?
- **Publisher:** Is it a professional association, commercial publishing company, etc.?
- **Tone:** Is the language technical or basic? Does it convey mostly fact or opinion?
- **Citations:** Do articles include references to other publications?
- **Graphics/advertisements:** Does the publication include a lot of colorful graphics and advertisements? (See reverse for a chart of periodicals and their characteristics.)

## Finding periodicals at SU Library

### Finding print copies of periodicals:

1. Browse the current periodical section of the Library for most recent issues.
2. Look up periodical titles in the SUMMIT Catalog (i.e., search by “Journal Title”).

### Finding electronic versions of periodicals:

1. Search the Full Text Journal Locator ([library.syr.edu/research/ej/](http://library.syr.edu/research/ej/)).

### Finding articles in databases:

1. **Select database:** Start at Database Main Menu ([library.syr.edu/research/database/](http://library.syr.edu/research/database/)) to browse list of databases.
2. **Search:** For help searching a database, read directions or “help” pages or contact a librarian.
3. **Check results:** Some databases contain articles from a variety of periodical types, so read your results carefully and try to determine the type of source using the Periodical Comparison Chart on the reverse side of this handout.
4. Some databases, such as Expanded Academic ASAP, allow the option of limiting your search to peer-reviewed sources. **NOTE: If you are unsure if a periodical is appropriate to use for an assignment, please check with your instructor.**
5. **Full-text vs. citation:** In some cases, you will receive full-text, complete copies of articles online. In other cases, you will receive information that points you to the printed source (for printed sources, search the SUMMIT Catalog as described above).

For more information on finding articles at Syracuse University Library see: [library.syr.edu/instruction/guides/articles.htm](http://library.syr.edu/instruction/guides/articles.htm).

xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Visit Syracuse University Library on the web at [library.syr.edu](http://library.syr.edu).