



Finding journal articles at the Luther L. Gobbel Library

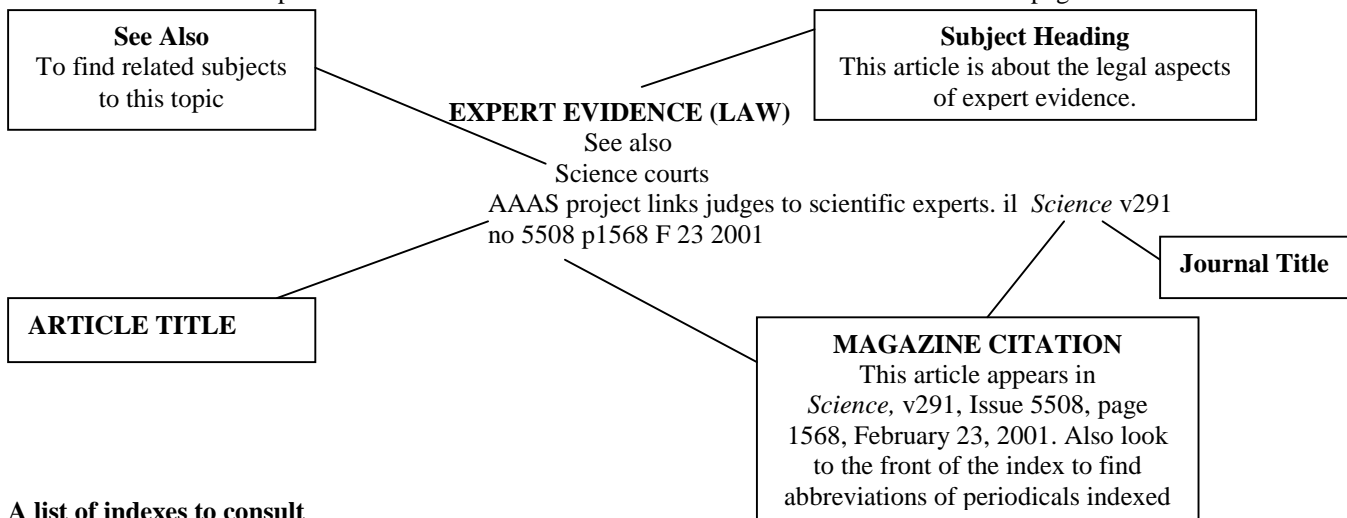
Being able to find journal articles is a crucial part of the research process. This guide will cover finding articles using the library's indexes and electronic databases.

Subject Heading

As with any library research endeavor, language is key in obtaining comprehensive and relevant results. Many of the tools you will use to find articles are organized by subject headings, and the ability to use the right subject heading will increase both the relevance and speed with which you find articles. The *Library of Congress Subject Headings* (big red books in the back of Reference) is the best source for search terms to use when searching for an article. By using *Library of Congress Subject Headings* (LC Heading) you will be able to use the same terminology to search many different indexes. It is a good idea to develop a list of related subject headings for your topic, because these synonyms will often allow you to see different angles on your topic. Once you have developed a list of terms that describes your area of research you can then use library indexes and electronic databases to find articles.

Using Indexes (indexes are located to right of periodicals on the main floor)

You will not be able to use the library's online catalog to find articles within journals. Instead of using the library catalog, you will need to use an index. The library has both general and specialized indexes covering all subject areas. You will find the indexes shelved in the alcove to the right of periodicals. All the indexes have a similar format and are arranged in alphabetical order by word. Using an index is similar to looking up a word in a dictionary; you look for the LC Heading in the index's alphabetized list. Notice that each heading is in bold and under it you will find a list of article titles and cross-references to other headings related to your topic. You can use these "see also" references to find more articles on your topic. Each entry in the indexes provides the title of the article, the name of the periodical, volume number, pages, date and author. Below is an example taken from the *Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature* volume 61 page 808.



A list of indexes to consult

Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature (1900-). This index covers all subject fields. Periodicals indexed here are popular interest (i.e. articles usually are not scholarly research) such as Time, Newsweek, Fortune, etc. Readers' Guide is a good source for current events and news articles.

Social Sciences Index (1974-) Provides access to scholarly periodicals in the social sciences (e.g. anthropology, area studies, geography, sociology, psychology, political science, environmental studies, economics, criminology and urban studies). If your looking for research articles in the social sciences then this is place to start.

Humanities Index (1974-) This index covers scholarly journals in the fields of history, literary and political criticism, philosophy, religion, and theology. It is a good place to find literary criticism and scholarly articles on history.

Education Index (1929-) All fields of education are covered including: administration and supervision, English language arts, health and physical education, multicultural/ethnic education, preschool and elementary education, psychology and mental health, science and mathematics education, secondary education, social studies education, special education, teaching methods and curriculum.

Biography Index (1946-) An index to all types of biographical materials, *Biography Index* covers periodicals, books, and the *New York Times* obituaries. This index will also point you to interviews, autobiographies, critical studies, diaries, and journals. It also has an index by occupations and subject heading (e.g. Artist, Authors, Basketball players, Chemical Industry executives, Narcotic addicts). This is one of the best sources providing access to all different types of biographical information.

Essay and General Literature Index (1900-) This is very similar to the indexes above except that the articles it covers are in book anthologies rather than periodicals. You can search this index by author or subject. This is one of only a few sources that will give information about the chapters in books. *Essay and General Literature Index* is a multidisciplinary source with particular emphasis on the humanities and social sciences.

Finding the articles in the library

Once you have found a potential article in one of the indexes above, you use its citation (see illustration above) to identify the Journal title. You can use the [online catalog](#) to search for journal titles. A faster method would be to look in the black notebook binder labeled "Lambuth Library Periodical Listings" found on the Reference Desk. The journal titles are listed in alphabetical order. It is possible to find journal articles in three different formats here at the library: paper, electronic, and microform. The excerpt below is from the binder, and as you can see, for each title it gives the years the library has issues in paper, on microforms, or if it is available in our databases. When you have found the title you are looking for check to see if it is in paper or microform. If it is in paper then look in the periodical stacks on the Main floor. All of the library's periodicals are arranged in alphabetical order by title. If years are listed under microfilm or microfiche, you can find those years in the cabinets to the right of the photocopiers. If the title is not listed in the binder it would be a good idea to search the electronic databases to see if we subscribe to the journal through our databases. If you cannot find what you are looking for please ask a librarian.

Title; URL	Paper	Microfiche	Microfilm	Government Documents
ABC Political Science	1969-1973 (v.1-v.5)			
Abstracts for Social Workers	1965-1976 (v.1-v.12)			
Academe	2001- (v.87-present)	1988- (v.74-present)		
Accounting Review	1964- (v.39-present)			
Administrative Science Quarterly		1965- (v.30-present)		
Adolescence	1981-1996 (v.16-v.21)	1987- (v.22-present)		

Using electronic databases to find journal articles

The library receives thousands of full text articles through its online database subscriptions. Most of these articles are not available from Internet search engines and can only be accessed via the University's databases. While it is possible to search a database by keyword (i.e. any term that comes to mind) using the *Library of Congress* (LC) Headings could prove more productive because many of the databases use subject terms that are very similar to LC Headings. In the advance search mode, many databases will allow you to search by subject and this is where LC Headings are most useful. When you use LC Headings to search databases you are combining human intelligence with the speed and flexibility of computer databases. Using the indexes above, you can also identify important journals on your given topic. Once you have a list of journals that publish articles on your topic, you can rapidly search the electronic databases for articles from these important sources. This method allows you to combine some of the best aspects of indexes with the speed of computers. Another important aspect of electronic databases is that their full-text content may only go back for 5-10 years, so some older articles may not be available online. Online databases are fast at finding full-text articles, however some thought should go into selection of search terms. Both [General OneFile](#) (http://voyager2.lambuth.edu:2048/login?url=http://infotrac.galegroup.com/itweb/tel_a_lambuth?db=ITOF) and [Academic Source Premier](#) (<http://voyager2.lambuth.edu:2048/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?authtype=ip,uid&profile=ehost&defaultdb=aph?profile=web&defaultdb=aph>) are good choices for finding full-text journal articles. The *InfoTrac OneFile* has broad coverage of all disciplines, and *Academic Source Premier* has good coverage of Business and the Social Sciences. If you have any questions about what search strategy to use, please feel free to ask any of the librarians here at Lambuth University.