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, Lodging Hospitality,* 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

To find magazine articles use a general periodical database such as General OneFile. To find articles in science journals or professional periodicals use a specialized periodical database such as MEDLINE or ScienceDirect. Academic OneFile is an excellent database to search for articles in either general or specialized periodicals. To find a list of library databases that provide access to periodical articles, go to [http://guides.genesee.edu/databases](http://guides.genesee.edu/databases).

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## PERIODICALS

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<th>Types &amp; Examples</th>
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| **Newspapers**   | General public | New York Times Historical: 1851 - 2008  
| Batavia Daily News  | Current Information | General OneFile  
| Buffalo News  | News, features, editorials, text of speeches, etc. | New York State Newspapers  
| New York Times  | Geographic focus | Browsing current print issues  
| Rochester Democrat & Chronicle  | | |
| Wall Street Journal | | |
| **Magazines**    | General public | General OneFile  
| Time   | Nontechnical language | Academic Search Complete  
| Newsweek | Current events and political commentary | Opposing Viewpoints in Context  
| New Yorker | Book and movie reviews | |
| Popular Science | How to articles | |
| Sports Illustrated | Photographs, ads | |
| Forbes | | |
| National Review | | |
| **Professional Trade Journals** | Practitioners in specific fields | Business & Company Resource Center  
| Information Today | Current trends & practices | General OneFile  
| Police Chief | New product info., meetings, job openings, ads | CINAHL Plus with Full Text  
| Broadcast & Cable | | ERIC  
| Travel Weekly | | |
| **Academic Journals** | Researchers, practitioners, experts in a given field | General OneFile  
| Harvard Business Review  | Technical language | Academic Search Complete  
| Bioscience  | Original research reported & discussed | Specialized indexes:  
| Science | Book reviews, statistics, bibliographies | PsycINFO & PsycARTICLES  
| Journal of Abnormal Psychology | Often refereed/peer reviewed (articles reviewed by experts before publication) | ScienceDirect  
| Physical Therapy | | Business Source Complete  
| JAMA | | JSTOR  
| Journal of Marriage and the Family | | CINAHL Plus with Full Text  
| Social Problems | | ERIC  
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