



How to find journals and journal articles

What is a journal?

A **journal**, also known as a **periodical**, **serial** or **magazine**, is a continuous publication produced in regular issues ranging from weekly to bi-annually. After a certain period of time, usually one year, individual journal issues are collated together into a **volume**. Journals consist of various elements, the main one being **articles**. In the case of academic journals, articles are reports by academics, authors or researchers on a specific topic relevant to the subject of the journal. They are often the result of years of in-depth research and work. Other elements include **editorials** (where the editor of the journal presents their own opinion or highlights relevant topics within the journal) and **reviews** of books and other research work.

What types of journal are available?

There are several types of journals, each with a different purpose, style and content:

- **Academic** – these are published for a special group, learned society or profession. They focus on research topics and feature **peer-reviewed** articles (articles scrutinised by experts before being accepted for publication). Examples are the *British Medical Journal (BMJ)*, *The Harvard Law Review*, the *Journal of the Academy of Marketing Science* and *Film Studies: An International Review*
- **Popular** – often thought of as magazines, these include glossy, short articles written for general readers, alongside advertisements of general interest. Some of these titles are *National Geographic*, the *Radio Times*, *Cosmopolitan*, *Popular Mechanics*, *Hello*, *PC Magazine*, *Gramophone* and *BBC History Magazine*
- **Trade and professional** – which are service or industry-based and feature news items and job advertisements as well as advertisements for products relevant to that journal's field. These include *Investors Chronicle*, *Nursing Standard*, *Heating Ventilating & Plumbing* and *The Instrumentalist*

Journals are often available in both print and electronic form. The Library only subscribes to a small proportion of the journals which are published, and you will have to use a variety of resources to find relevant journal articles effectively. Please contact your subject librarian if you are not sure whether the Library subscribes to a particular journal title.

How can I identify a journal article reference?

When reading a journal article you will often be directed to another source which the authors have used as evidence to support an argument, theory or piece of research. This direction is known as a **reference**, because it refers the reader to another relevant source.

References to journal articles typically contain the following information:

Author	Date	Title of article
↓	↓	↓
BROWN, Alison P.	(2004)	Anti-social behaviour, crime control and social control.
Howard Journal of Criminal Justice	43(2)	, pp.203-211
↑	↑	↑
Journal title	volume	issue page number(s)

A reference to an article includes the following elements and formatting:

AUTHOR(S) (Year) Title of article. *Title of journal*, Vol. No. (Part no./Issue/Month), Pages.

For more information about referencing journals, books, reports and images in your own work, please see the Library guide **The Harvard System of Referencing**, available from the Library web site at

<http://www.library.dmu.ac.uk/Images/Selfstudy/Harvard.pdf>

Finding electronic journals using the E-Journals A-Z list

All available E-Journals are listed on the Library's **E-Journals A-Z**. To find out whether the Library subscribes to an e-journal, go to the Library home page at <http://www.library.dmu.ac.uk>

From here use the following links in order:

E-books, E-journals and Exam Papers / Electronic Journals / Electronic Journals A-Z list /

This will take you to the E-Journals A-Z's search options.

Enter one or more words from the journal's title into the search box and press the **Enter** key or click on onscreen **Go** button

If an e-journal is available you will see the title, as well as (usually) confirmation that the full text of articles is provided and holdings information (i.e. what years can be accessed online).

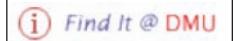
You may find that the library has access to several subscriptions, each with different holdings and accessibility e.g.:

Journal Title	ISSN
↓	↓
The British journal of psychology [0007-1269]	

Full text information
↓

Full text available via *EBSCOhost Academic Search Premier*

Period covered by subscription
↓
Available from 1985 / Most recent 6 month(s) not available
↑
Further subscription information

Now click on: 

This will take you to an options screen that includes the following information:

Source: British Journal of Psychology [0007-1269]

Full text available via *EBSCOhost Academic Search Elite*

Year: Volume: Issue: Start Page: **GO**

Available from 1985

Most recent 6 month(s) not available

- If you know the exact reference details of the article you want – enter the year, volume, issue and start page of the article into the search boxes and click 
- If you don't know the exact reference details of the article you want or would like to search the whole journal – do not enter any information into the search boxes and click 

As long as the University subscribes to the journal title, you will be able to browse or search some or all of the articles online. Always check the subscription details to determine whether or not the article you require is available.

Finding print and electronic journals using the Library catalogue

Electronic Journals

The **Journals Catalogue** also provides access to some **electronic journals**, or **e-journals**. These feature exactly the same content, articles, and reviews as print journals, but deliver them online.

Go to the Library home page at <http://www.library.dmu.ac.uk> and follow the link to the Library Catalogue. Using the **drop down menu** in the **Catalogue** field, select the **Journals Catalogue** option.

- If you know the journal title – enter it into the **Title** search field and press the **Enter** key or click the onscreen **Search** button
- If you don't know the journal title – enter a partial journal title or word into the **Keyword** search field and press the **Enter** key or click the onscreen **Search** button

The search will bring up any journal subscriptions **that match your suggested Title or Keyword**. You can view information regarding the location (e.g. Kimberlin Journals) and holdings (e.g. Vol.21, no.3–Vol.26, no.4 Sep 1997–Dec 2002) by clicking the **Show Library Holdings** link

If an e-journal is available, you will see the e-journal title and a link, e.g.:

British Journal of Psychology

Link: [Click here!](#)

Follow the link and you will be taken to the e-journal. You will be able to access any issues or articles to which the Library subscribes. However, the Library does not subscribe to every journal or its back issues and you may find that some journals and articles are unavailable.

Print Journals

All print journals subscribed to by the Library are listed on the Library Catalogue. Follow the same steps as above to view the Library holdings.

Finding Journal articles using databases

An online database brings together sources of information such as articles, reports and bulletins by more-or-less broad subject areas for easy access and retrieval. All available databases are listed on the Library homepage at <http://www.library.dmu.ac.uk/> and can also be found by following the **Databases** link – this will take you through to the '**Search for a database**' page.

- If you know which database you require – from the **Search for a database** page, enter the name of a database into the search box and press the **Enter** key or click the onscreen **Search** button
- If you don't know which database you require – from the **Search for a database** page click on the **Subject Guides** link. Follow the link from your subject area and you will be taken to a list of relevant databases
- If you want to browse all the databases to which the Library subscribes – from the **Search for a database** page click on the **Databases A-Z** link

Most databases have their own individual search facilities and may display search results differently.

Always consult the database user guides and help services for advice on searching and finding relevant articles. For further information and support, contact the Library's Just Ask enquiry service at <http://www.library.dmu.ac.uk/Support/Justask/> or ask your subject librarian.

Athens account

For the majority of databases and some full text journals you may be asked to sign into e-journals or databases using an Athens username and password. Your personal Athens username will be sent to your University student email account. It looks like this:

- Username = dmu06123456
- Password = city1234

Athens details will only be sent to University email accounts, not to personal ones.

www.library.dmu.ac.uk

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