

Research Database Tips Aug. 9, 2011

Finding Articles in Magazines and Journals

One of the most commonly made assignments students receive is to find and summarize articles from journals. Many students, however, don't know the difference between magazines and journals. A magazine is written for the general public and contains articles, stories, photographs and usually lots of advertising. The articles are often written by editorial staff and are sometimes unsigned. A journal contains scholarly articles and/or current information on research and development in a particular subject field with little or no advertising. A peer-reviewed or refereed journal uses a reviewing system in which two outside reviewers evaluate each unsolicited manuscript and advise the editor as to acceptance or rejection.

Almost every database subscribed to by Wor-Wic Community College contains articles from magazines and journals. Three of them, however, provide full-text indexing for a large number of magazines and journals across a broad spectrum of academic interests. *Academic OneFile*, *Academic Search Complete* and *Proquest Central* cover between them a huge number of magazines and journals with full text indexing.

Academic OneFile is published by Gale Cengage Learning. It provides "extensive coverage of the sciences, technology, medicine, the arts, theology, literature and other subjects." One has the option to limit a basic search to full-text only, peer-reviewed publications, and/or documents with images. Both html and PDF files are provided if available. Search results are listed by date with the option to change to listing by relevance in a drop-down menu at the top of the results page.. On the left side of the results page, one has the option to list results by type of publication: academic journals, magazines, news, images, videos, and audios.

Academic OneFile contains many citation only (no full-text) listings. Students should be careful to limit their initial searches to full-text only.

Academic OneFile is only one of the Gale databases to which Wor-Wic subscribes. It is possible to search all of the Gale databases at one time by going to the Research Databases by Title page under Library Services and choosing Gale – All Gale Cross-Searchable Databases.

Academic Search Complete is published by EBSCO. It is advertised as the "world's most valuable and comprehensive scholarly, multidisciplinary full text database" containing 8600 full-text periodicals of which 7,500 are peer-reviewed journals. It also contains indexing and abstracting for more than 12,500 journals and a total of more than 13,200 publications including monographs, reports and conference proceedings. One has the option to limit a search to articles with full text only, in only scholarly (peer-reviewed) journals, during a specific date range, in a specific publication, with references available in the article, by number of pages included, or by specific types of illustrations included. Search results are all listed together by relevance with the option to change to listing by date. Both html and PDF files are provided if available. On the left side of the results page, one can refine the search options from all results to full-text only or peer-reviewed journals only and adjust the date range searched. Results can also be refined to include only academic journals, magazines, newspapers, books, or book reviews.

Academic Search Complete is heavily weighted toward journal articles. Since this database is so large, students should be careful to limit their initial searches to full-text only.

Academic Search Complete is only one of the EBSCO databases to which Wor-Wic subscribes. It is possible to search all of the EBSCO databases at one time by going to the [Research Databases by Title](#) page under [Library Services](#) and choosing [EBSCO – All EBSCO Cross-Searchable Databases](#).

Proquest Central is advertised as the largest aggregated database of periodical content covering 160 subject areas and including scholarly journals, trade publications, magazines books, newspaper, reports and videos. One is provided the basic option to limit the search to full text and/or scholarly journals. Additional search options are offered under advanced search at the top of the page. A basic search lists all results together by date. On the right side of the results page, one has the option to change the order of the results to by relevance. There is also the option to show results by type of publication: scholarly journals, trade journals, wire feeds, magazines, and newspapers.

Proquest Central also contains many citation only (no full-text) listings. Students should be careful to limit their initial searches to full-text only.

Proquest Central automatically includes the content of many of the Proquest databases listed separately on the [Research Databases by Title](#) page under [Library Services](#). There is also a link on that page for [Proquest – All Proquest Cross-Searchable Databases](#). This automatically adds *Proquest Historical Newspapers : Baltimore Sun* to the mix.