Searching for Sources: Periodical Databases

Magazines: Articles in magazines are usually short in length and are written in a popular style. Examples of magazines are American Heritage and Smithsonian.

Journals: Articles in journals are lengthy and written by scholars or experts in the field. They often have bibliographies and extensive footnotes. Examples of journals are Journal of American History and Journal of Southern History.

Newspapers: Publications issued daily or weekly that contain news and editorial articles. Examples of newspapers are New York Times and Christian Science Monitor.

The Academy Library subscribes to many different electronic databases, most of which contain full-text magazine, journal, and newspaper articles. You may access these databases from the e-resources link on the Library’s home page or the Research Guide created for your class.

Check out these databases for American History research...

◊ Academic Search Premier ◊ Harper’s Weekly
◊ America: History and Life ◊ JSTOR
◊ America’s Historical Newspapers ◊ The Nation Archive
◊ American Periodicals Series Online ◊ ProQuest Historical Newspapers
◊ Reader’s Guide Retrospective

HELP! I don’t know which database to use.
HELP! There are no articles on my topic in any of the Library’s databases.
HELP! Ask a Librarian. See the Library’s home page for all the options.

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Periodical Databases 
Exercises

1. List your 2 most likely topic choices for the 332 library assignment.
   1. ____________________________________________
   2. ____________________________________________

2. Locate a magazine article about either topic to use as a primary source.
   Name of database: ____________________________________________
   Source: ______________________________________________________
   What was your search strategy? ________________________________
   How will you narrow/broaden your search? ______________________

3. Locate a scholarly journal article about either topic, written after 2000.
   Name of database: ____________________________________________
   List the author, title, date and name of publication: _______________
   __________________________________________________________________

4. Find a newspaper editorial on either topic, with a date contemporary to the topic (a primary source).
   Name of database: ____________________________________________
   List the publication and date of the article _________________________
   Did you perform more than one search? __________________________
   How did you change your searches to get better results? ___________

5. Using the Reader's Guide Retrospective database, find an article on either topic. Find out if the Library has the article.
   Name of the magazine _________________________________________
   In what format will you find the article (print, database, microfilm)?

6. Do a Bibliography search for a book on either topic. The book should be written by a historian after 1980. It may be either an overview of the time period or a monograph (a narrowly focused work).
   Author/Title: _________________________________________________
   Date of publication/Call #: ______________________________________

7. Based on the above research, list your final topic choice:
   __________________________________________________________________