

## Finding Articles

**Definitions:** **Citation:** All the information needed to reference a specific article, including author, article title, journal title, volume number, issue number, date, and page number(s). **Periodical:** A journal, magazine, newspaper, newsletter, or anything else that comes out on a regular basis. **Database:** Search engines that help you find articles on your topic. Some databases are subject-specific, while others are general and cover many subjects.

**Getting Started:** To find articles, go to the St. John's Libraries home page, at [libraries.stjohns.edu](http://libraries.stjohns.edu).

Next, choose either **Databases A-Z** or **Resources by Subject**. Use "Databases A-Z" if you know the name of the database you want to use. Otherwise, use "Resources by Subject."

**Scholarly Journals vs. Popular Magazines:** Scholarly Journals are usually better-suited to academic research than popular magazines. Consider the following:

### Scholarly Journals

Intended for specific audience  
Articles written by experts  
Include references (footnotes)  
Articles are peer-reviewed

### Popular Magazines

Intended for general audience  
Articles by non-experts  
No references  
**NOT** peer-reviewed

**Performing a Search:** When searching a database, you need to use Boolean operators (**and**, **or**, **not**) which determine how your search is performed.

**And:** narrows your search. For example, *global warming and hurricanes* will find articles containing **both** terms.

**Or:** broadens your search. For example, *global warming or climate change* will find articles with **either** of those terms.

**Not:** excludes terms from a search. For example, *global warming not ozone depletion* will exclude articles that mention ozone depletion.

**Accessing the Article:** Is the article available full-text? If so, you can access the article from your computer! If the article is not available full text, try the following steps:

- Search for the periodical in **Full-text eJournals** (available on the libraries homepage.)
- Check the periodicals section of the library
- Use **Interlibrary Loan** (found under on the libraries' homepage.)
- When in doubt, speak to a librarian!