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Abstract: a summary of the contents of an article or book

Articles: works of writing published in a journal, magazine, newspaper, or part of a collected work of published articles (see also scholarly article)

Citation: Information used to identify a particular text. A book citation includes author, title, publisher and year of publication. A journal citation includes author, article title, periodical title, date, volume, and page numbers. Citations for web sites include the name of the site, the site URL, author or webmaster, date of creation, and date of access.

Database: A collection of information stored in an electronic format that can be searched by a computer; examples include Academic Search Complete and CQ Researcher. Some databases provide only citation information and abstracts. Other databases provide citations, abstracts, and the full text of articles. For a complete list of databases available through Monroe Library, go to <http://library.loyno.edu/find/databases/>

Full text: Databases and search engines sometimes provide the complete text of an article; this is referred to as full text. The full text of an article may be in text format, pdf, or HTML. Articles in pdf format require users to have Adobe Acrobat reader; this can be downloaded for free at <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>. Articles in text or html do not require a special plug-in to view.

Index: A print or electronic publication that lists references to articles or books by subject and/or author. Examples include: America: History and Life, Art Abstracts, and International Index to Music Periodicals Full Text (IIMP FT).

Journal: A publication, issued on a regular basis, which contains scholarly research published as articles, papers, research reports, or technical reports. There are two ways to find out if the library subscribes to a journal:

- 1) Search the online catalog – click BROWSE, select PERIODICAL TITLE from the pull down menu, then type the title of the journal in the SEARCH box, or
- 2) Search [Journal Finder](#) and locate electronic journals.

Magazine: A periodical published primarily for a general audience. It usually does not contain scholarly articles.

Online catalog: An electronic database that can be searched various ways, including author, title, subject, or call number, to find out what the library has. For print materials, the catalog record displays the call number and the location of the material. For electronic materials, the catalog record includes a link to the item.

Peer review: The process by which articles are evaluated by an expert in the field before being accepted for publication. Peer review is an indication that a journal and/or article is scholarly.

Periodical: A publication with a unique title that is issued at an established interval (weekly, monthly, quarterly). Examples include newspapers, journals, and magazines.

Scholarly article: an article written by a scholar or expert in a field for his or her peers. Scholarly articles usually focus on academic subjects and contribute to the research in that area. [See also the handout on scholarly articles.](#)

For more definitions see the ACRL Library Instruction Section publication [Multilingual Glossary: Definitions](#)

If you have questions about research terms or research in general,
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