Journals
What? Why? Where?
This workshop will cover:

- What is a journal?
- The importance of using journal articles
- Understanding a journal reference
- Locating journal articles online and in print
What is a journal?
Books, journal articles or both?

Peer reviewed

Lot of different authors

Up-to-date

Published on a regular basis

Specialist

List of references

Overview

Reports on a study/trial
### Books
- Overview

### Journals
- Published on a regular basis
- Peer reviewed
- Up-to-date

### Both
- Lots of different authors
- Specialist
- List of references
- Reports on a study/trial
What are journals?

• Like magazines but of a scholarly nature
• Published at regular intervals with no predetermined end
• Contain articles on a variety of topics
• The articles are written by different authors
• Sometimes they also contain reviews and other information
• In printed or electronic format
It’s good to use journals because...

- Up-to-date – latest news or research in your subject
- Reports on a study/trial
- Published on a regular basis
- Articles are short and cover one aspect of a subject in great detail (specialist)
- Lots of different authors
- Quality – academic reputation - peer reviewed
- List of references at the end of journal articles are useful
- Subject may not yet (or may never) be covered in books
Understanding a journal reference

• Journals are collected into numbered volumes, usually one for each year.

• To find a particular journal article you would need to know the full reference, which usually includes:
  ✓ the name of the journal, the year it was published
  ✓ its volume number, issue number and page numbers (of the article)
  ✓ the name and initials of the article’s author(s)
  ✓ the title of the article
A journal article reference will usually look something like this:

Defining transcomedy: humor, tricksterism, and postcolonial affect from Gerald Vizenor to Sacha Baron Cohen

Moss, J.L.

487-500
Task

You will be given a journal to look through. Choose an article and write down the reference to it on your worksheet (page 2).
Finding journal articles

How you find journal articles depends on the information that you start with

Do you have the details of a particular journal article you are trying to find?

Yes

Route A: You need to search Discovery using the details of the journal article. This is the easiest route and the one we will look at first

No

Route B: When you do not have the details of an article, you can do a topic search on Discovery and limit your results to journal articles. However, to carry out a thorough search we recommend you use online databases via LibGuides
In summary: How do you find articles on a subject?

- Too time-consuming to browse all the journals in your subject area
- One place where article details are not included: The Catalogue
- Need to use Discovery and/or online databases via LibGuides
Did you find this useful?

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We have other workshops that could be helpful:

• Dissertations: Getting Started
• Critical Thinking
• Writing a Literature Review