Finding and using journals

What Is a Journal?

A journal can be anything that is published at regular intervals. They may be published weekly, monthly, quarterly or annually, and are also called “periodicals”, “serials” or “magazines”. For example, *Grazia*, *The Nursing Times* and the *International Journal of Impact Engineering* are all different journal titles.

Journals that can be used in university assessments are called academic journals. Articles in academic journals are usually written by experts in their field and have a reference list.

Journals are available in both print and electronic format at LSBU.

What does an article citation look like?

A journal article citation will generally have the following elements:

Author(s), (year) Article title, *Journal Title*, volume (issue), page range. 

E.g.


The easiest way to work out if the citation is for a journal article is to check if it has a volume and/or issue listed. In comparison, a book citation will have a publisher and a place of publication.

How to find journals online

N.B. Whole journals and individual journal articles are searched for differently. Please choose the option that suits your needs best.

If you are looking for a whole journal, rather than an article:

1. You can search for the journal title via the library homepage https://my.lsbu.ac.uk/general/library.aspx
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2. Select the ‘Journals’ tab on the library catalogue, type in the journal title and click search

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Type the name or subject of the journal you are looking for, then click Search to find both Print and Online journals.

3. If your journal is available in both print and electronic format, it will show on this page. Select the option for the Electronic Resource.

N.B. If it is only available for either print or electronic, it will take you straight into the catalogue record. If it is only available in print please see ‘how to find journals in print’ on page 4.

4. On this page you will be able to see for which years LSBU has access to this journal. If there is more than one option, select the option that gives access to the years you are interested in.

5. To access the journal from home, you will need to type in your LSBU username and password.

Finding an individual article from a citation

1. Go to the library homepage via MyLSBU
2. Select the Journals tab.


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3. Enter the journal title e.g. *Journal of Nursing Law* and click search.

4. If we hold the journal it will be listed. Click on the journal title in the list. We may have an electronic version, print version or both.

5. If we have an electronic version, the databases (e-resources) that contain the journal will be listed. Click the link for the database that covers the date of the article.

6. Once the database is open, find where the past issues are listed by year. Navigate to the correct year and then click on the correct volume and issue number.

7. Once the results for the issue have loaded, scroll through the page until you see the title of the article.

8. Click on the pdf or html full text button to view the article.

**Individual articles on a topic by keyword**

To find journal articles on a topic, you will need to search using keywords in a journal database.

To find journal databases for your subject, select your faculty resources page, e.g., HSC Resources, from the menu on the left hand side of the library homepage. Then select your subject area, e.g. Nursing, from the menu.
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Use the individual database guides on the library homepage for instructions on how to use these databases, or make an appointment with your faculty’s Information Skills Advisor for one to one instruction.

How to find journals in print

If you know the title of the whole journal, you can search for the journal via the library homepage https://my.lsbu.ac.uk/general/library.aspx

1. Select the 'Journals' tab on the library catalogue and type in the journal title and click search.

   ![Journal search screenshot]

   Type the name or subject of the journal you are looking for, then click Search to find both Print and Online journals.

2. If your journal is available in both print and electronic format, it will show on this page. Select the option for the periodical.

   ![Journal availability screenshot]

   If it is only available for either print or electronic, it will take you straight into the catalogue record. The available volumes for this journal are listed on this page.

3. You will need to then locate the journal on the shelf. All print journals are located on Level 3 Bridge at the Perry Library. Unlike the rest of the library,
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In the collection, print journals are arranged in alphabetical order. When you are looking for the name of the journal, leave out any insignificant words at the start of the title such as ‘the’.

Print journals are not able to be borrowed, however you can photocopy from journals within copyright restrictions.

If you need assistance in locating print journals, please visit the library helpdesk.

FAQs

Why should I use journals in the first place?

Because they are published at shorter intervals than books, journals are a good source of up-to-date material. Journal articles are shorter than books and easier to digest.

Where are the journals?

The printed journals are shelved on 3 Bridge at the Perry library. Online journals are accessible from the library homepage.

Do you hold daily newspapers?

Yes, we hold the Times, the Sunday Times, the Financial Times, the Independent, the Daily Telegraph and the Guardian. They are kept on the newspaper rack on 2 East for a week. For older copies, and for other newspapers, see the ProQuest Newspapers database.

Can I obtain a journal article if the library does not subscribe to the journal?

If you are a final year undergraduate, or a postgraduate student, we can obtain a copy via the Inter Library Loans service for a fee. If you are not eligible for this, we can try to find a library which holds the journal for you to visit. See “Inter Library Loans” and “Access to Other Libraries” on the library homepage for more details.

What is a peer reviewed or refereed journal article?

Peer-reviewed or refereed articles have been evaluated and critiqued by researchers and experts in the same field before the article is published. Peer review ensures that an article, and therefore the journal and the scholarship of the discipline as a whole, maintains a high standard of quality, accuracy, and academic integrity.
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Help

For help with finding journals and searching journal databases, visit the Research Help desk on level 3 Bridge of the Perry Library.

To book a one to one appointment, contact your School’s Information Advisers:

Applied Science: LLRapp@lsbu.ac.uk
Arts & Creative Industries: LLRaci@lsbu.ac.uk
Built Environment & Architecture: LLRbea@lsbu.ac.uk
Business: LLRbus@lsbu.ac.uk
Engineering: LLReng@lsbu.ac.uk
Health & Social Care: LLRhsc@lsbu.ac.uk
Law & Social Sciences: LLRlss@lsbu.ac.uk