

Guide to...

Science Journals

During your course at Anglia Ruskin, you will be required to read information published in a range of journals.

What are journals?

According to the concise Oxford dictionary, a journal is “a newspaper or magazine dealing with a particular subject”.

Journals are also called “periodicals” or “serials” because they are published periodically. This can be daily, in the case of a newspaper, weekly, monthly, bi-monthly (six times per year), quarterly (4 times per year), twice per year or even annually (once every year).

Volumes, parts and issues

To make the contents easier to access, each individual issue or part of a journal is organised into volumes, usually at the end of each year. The final issue or part for that year will usually contain an index covering the whole year.

Sometimes cumulative or consolidated indexes may be published covering longer period of time: e.g. 10 years

What sort of information is published in journals?

Because journals are published regularly, they are good sources of up to date and current information. In Science, information about the latest research will generally appear in a journal article long before it is published in book form.

Journal articles range from popular material aimed at the general reader, including reviews and summaries of other peoples’ work to detailed accounts of original scholarly research and articles discussing particular theories and hypotheses.

Have a look at the article titles below for examples of the latter:

“An examination of the effects of a classroom activity schedule on levels of self-injury and engagement for a child with severe autism”

This is a report of a particular case study.

“The potential impacts of the arrival of the harlequin ladybird in Britain”

This is a theoretical article assessing the expected impact based on existing data

What is a peer reviewed journal?

A peer reviewed journal is one which requires each article submitted to be judged by an independent panel of experts which must approve it for publication.

Looking inside the journal at its editorial policy and its instructions to prospective authors can help you to decide if a particular journal is peer reviewed. This information can also be found by looking at the journal's web site.

Ulrich's International Periodicals Directory is also a useful source of information.

When searching for journals on databases such as Academic OneFile via the Library Website, it is possible to limit your search to peer reviewed journals only.

Some key pointers:

- Publisher may be a professional body such as The Royal Society of Chemistry or the Institute of Biology.
- The purpose of the article(s) is to publish the results of research
- Authors are identified as scholars or researchers in their field
- Articles are formal in layout and may contain statistical diagrams – and there is little or no advertising
- There will be a formal bibliography at the end, citing all sources used.

Print or digital?

The Library has many journals available to read either in print (paper copy) or online (e-journals) via the Library Website.

If you are unfamiliar with using journals, you may like to begin by browsing issues of our current print journals.

Our print journals are for **reference only**, and must not be removed from the Library. You may legally photocopy one article from any one issue of a journal for your own use.

General science journals

Science, *Nature*, and *New Scientist* are all published weekly and are good for keeping yourself updated on what is currently happening in science.

Finding journals in your subject area.

- **Library Subject Guides** (available in the Library, or on the web site) list current print journals together with a selection of electronic ones.
- You can also search by journal title keyword in the **Library website**. Select "Journal Finder" to search both print and e-journals.
- You can also search just for e-journals by using the "**find e-journals**" search to look for electronic titles to which the Library has access. You can search by Title and also by Category to help find journals in broad subject areas.

- If you are looking for some relevant journal articles on a given topic, you can use **databases** (indexes) via the Library Website. See recommendations in the Library subject guides.

Useful e-journal packages available through the Library Website

As well as individual titles, the Library subscribes to various electronic journal packages, which together considerably extend the range of titles available, for example **Science Direct** (Elsevier Science titles in full text) and **Wiley Interscience** (Wiley and Blackwell Science titles in full text) However, you should note that the Library does not subscribe to the full text of every journal on these packages.

More subject specific packages are **PsycARTICLES** (American Psychological Association journals in full text) and The **ACM Digital Library** (Full text of journals from the Association of Computer Machinery).

How to read references to journal articles.

As you study, you will come across references to journal articles which you may need to follow up, either in reading lists supplied by lecturers, or from your wider reading. You may also use databases (indexes) to search for journal articles on your chosen topic.

These are the elements of a reference to a journal article:

- Author's SURNAME, INITIALS
- Year of publication
- Title of article
- Title of journal
- Volume number and (part or issue number)
- Page numbers

Here is an example taken from a module reading list.

Allen, P.J., Amos, W., Pomeroy, P.P., and Twiss, S.D. (1995) Microsatellite variation in grey seals *Halichoerus grypus* shows evidence of genetic differentiation between two British breeding colonies. *Molecular Ecol.* 4: 653-662.

Here is an example taken from the Web of Science database:

The screenshot shows a Web of Science record for the article: "Population trend alters the effects of maternal dominance rank on lifetime reproductive success in yellow baboons (Papio cynocephalus)". The authors listed are Vasser, B.L., Hildebrandt, S., and Packer, R. The journal is "BEHAVIORAL ECOLOGY AND SOCIOBIOLOGY", Volume 50, Issue 4, pages 339-345, published in August 2004. The abstract discusses the relationship between dominance rank and lifetime reproductive success in yellow baboons. The record also includes a list of cited works, related records, and references.

Referencing journal articles

If you have read journal articles and referred to them in an essay or assignment, you need to know how to reference them correctly in your work. The style of referencing generally in use at Anglia Ruskin is the Harvard System. These are the basic elements of a journal article referenced according to Harvard.

AUTHOR of article, surname first. Date of publication Title of article. *Title of journal* in which the article appears. (you may underline if your work is handwritten) Volume number (part no.) page numbers

You will find a comprehensive Guide on the Library web site at www.libweb.anglia.ac.uk/referencing/harvard.htm.

Psychology students are asked to reference according to the APA (American Psychological Association) system. There is a brief guide available from the library website at www.libweb.anglia.ac.uk/referencing/referencing.htm.

More help on journals?

See **Pilot** our online Information Skills tutorial available on the Library website at www.libweb.anglia.ac.uk/pilot.

The following sections may be particularly useful to you:

Section 1:2:2: Locate your references. View demos of how to search for a journal article in the Library Catalogue and in the Digital Library.

Section 1:7:3: Periodicals will give you more information about journals

Section 2:4:2 will tell you about databases which contain journal articles

Section 4 contains information about citation and referencing.

If you need more help from the Library, you can use our general 'Ask Us' page on the Library website at www.libweb.anglia.ac.uk/askus. From here you can ask questions using our Online Enquiry Service and our new Online Chat service.



Ask us