

How to Get a Copy of a Periodical Article: Journal Finder

Note: This handout assumes you already have the citation for a periodical article.

A "citation" for a periodical article is the information that tells where to find the article. It usually includes the author and title of the article, the title of the periodical in which it was published, the volume and issue number, the page number(s), and the issue date.

Example of a citation:

(article title)	(author)			
Waiting for liftoff.	By Gibbs, W. Wayt.			
(periodical title)	(volume no.)	(issue no.)	(date issue was published)	(pages)
Scientific American	v. 289	no. 5	(Nov. 2003)	p. 100-2

From the library's home page (lib.umflint.edu)

Click "**Periodicals: Indexes and Full text**" in the column labeled "**Resources**" on the left.

On the resulting page, under "**Journal Finder**," type the first few words (not including "The") of the periodical title for which you are looking and click "**Search**."

If your periodical title appears on the resulting list of journal titles, that indicates the library owns at least some issues of that periodical. It may be available in **print format** (that is, we subscribe to it, like a magazine), on **microfilm**, or in an **electronic format, accessible by computer**. Check carefully the years listed under your periodical title to see if the library has the specific issue that you need.

For example, to find out if the article above is available, type **Scientific American** into the "Journal Finder" box. You will see:

Scientific American (0036-8733)

from 01/01/1998 to 12/01/2003 in [Wilson Select Plus](#)
from 1948 to present in [UM-Flint microfilm holdings](#)
from 5 years ago to present in [UM-Flint print holdings](#)

SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN CUMULATIVE INDEX

from 1948 to 1978 in [UM-Flint print holdings](#)

This indicates that ***Scientific American*** is available in an **electronic** format from 1998 through 2003 in the database, **Wilson Select Plus**. It also shows that the library has subscribed to ***Scientific American*** in print or microfilm from 1948 until the present.

Always look at the years listed as available to **make sure the issue you need is included**.

Electronic periodicals

If the **periodical** is available in an electronic database, click the **blue** title of the database to open that database. From there, depending on the database, you may have to take additional steps to find the specific article you need (since all databases work differently, specific instructions for these steps cannot be included here). Consult a librarian if you need additional help.

When you find the article, use the **print button provided by the database** (rather than using the browser's print button) to print the article; in many databases you may email it to yourself to print elsewhere.

Print periodicals

If the periodical is available in print, ("**In UM-Flint print holdings**"), go to the **Periodicals section (at the north end of the 3rd floor)**, and find the periodical alphabetically on the shelf (e.g., *Scientific American* will be in the S's). Find the volume you need (e.g. volume 289 for the *Scientific American* article listed above), and find the article within that volume.

Periodicals on microfilm

If the periodical is available on microfilm, ("**In UM-Flint microfilm holdings**") it is stored in the Microforms Room, Room 134, at the **south end of the first floor**. Microfilm is also shelved in alphabetical order by title.

Please note: If you found a citation for an article within one of our online periodical databases (for example, in a database provided by FirstSearch), click the article title to open the record for the article, and then click the yellow "Journal Finder" button. This automatically searches for the journal in which that article was published.