Periodicals come in a variety of styles and are published for a variety of audiences. They offer news, opinions, commentary, perspective, scholarly analysis, and reports of research findings. They range from brief newsletters published by trade organizations to in-depth journals published by scientific societies and university presses. All periodicals are published at more or less regular intervals, from daily newspapers to semi-annual journals.

You must make active choices about the types of periodicals needed for a given research project. “Popular press” magazines may be appropriate for limited purposes, but the most important source for college-level research is scholarly journals.

Some of the main categories of periodicals are described below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PERIODICAL CATEGORY with Examples</th>
<th>VALUE OR USE</th>
<th>METHOD OF ACCESS with suggested databases</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Newspapers**  
*The Bellingham Herald*  
*The New York Times*  
*The Washington Post* |  
- Current information  
- News stories  
- Opinion and commentary  
- Texts of speeches, etc.  
- Geographic focus |  
Newspaper Indexes:  
- ProQuest: National Newspapers Core, and Washington State Newsstand  
- Newsbank: The Bellingham Herald  
- eLibrary |
| **Popular Magazines**  
*Time*  
*Newsweek*  
*Psychology Today*  
*Scientific American* |  
- Current events overviews  
- Nontechnical language  
- Charts, pictures, graphs |  
Periodical indexes/databases:  
- EBSCO: Academic Search Premier  
- ProQuest: ProQuest Research Library |
| **Professional, Trade and Industry journals**  
*American Machinist*  
*Modern Healthcare*  
*Textile World*  
*Real Estate Business Journal* |  
- Written for practitioners in applied fields  
- Product information  
- Current trends and practices |  
General Indexes/Databases:  
- EBSCO: Academic Search Premier  
- ProQuest: ProQuest Research Library  
- ProQuest: ABI/Inform Trade & Industry |
| **Journals of Opinion**  
*Commentary*  
*The New Republic* |  
- Written from a political viewpoint (liberal, conservative)  
- General educated audience  
- Commentary on politics, society  
- Book reviews |  
General Indexes/Databases:  
- EBSCO: Academic Search Premier  
- ProQuest: ProQuest Research Library |
| **Scholarly/research journals**  
*Journal of Reading*  
*New England Journal of Medicine*  
*Stanford Law Review*  
*Canadian Psychology* |  
- Reports of original research  
- In-depth analyses of topics  
- Usually contain Materials and Methods, Results, Discussion, and Literature Cited sections  
- Use technical vocabulary |  
Specialized disciplinary indexes, abstracts:  
- EBSCO: CINAHL, and Health Source: Nursing/Academic (Nursing); Academic Search Premier  
- ERIC (Education)  
- ProQuest: ProQuest Research Library |

*Adapted from WSU Libraries.*