Why use periodicals?

- The bulk of published information is in periodicals.
- Most current (After Internet and TV)
- Reflects contemporary opinion
- Reflects evolving information and POV
- Is often the only information available when book publishers are not interested (local issues)

Types of Periodicals

- Popular
  - Magazines or Newspapers
  - Designed to appeal to a broad population
  - Short articles in non-technical language
  - Aimed at reading level for average person
  - Usually written by staff writers
  - Primarily information on current events

- Scholarly
  - Journals
  - Aimed at a limited readership
  - Written by experts in the field
  - Very technical vocabulary
  - Articles are usually the result of research in field
  - Usually contain extensive bibliographies

Accessing Periodical Information

- Indexes
  - Provides citations to articles in periodicals
    - Name of author
    - Title of article
    - Title of periodical
    - Volume, number, date, and page numbers
    - May also have an Abstract

Print vs. Electronic

- Electronic Indexes
  - Often have the entire article available at the same time (Full Text)
  - Fast
  - Accessible from multiple points
  - Easier (Fewer Steps)
  - Usually no information past the mid 1980's
Print vs. Electronic

Print Indexes
- Easier to browse
- Long historical access