

## Physically Locating Journal Articles

**Goals:** Introduce students to the basics of physically locating research articles. Have students present a short list of scholarly articles in a specific bibliographic format and write rudimentary annotations.

**Outcomes:**

Students will locate and retrieve three articles chosen by the librarian, at least one of which is in print. Students will retrieve the print article during class. Students will retrieve the other two as part of their assignment using the journal locator. Students will present the articles in the [Chicago] format and answer specific questions about each item, similar to the notation they would write when creating an annotated bibliography.

**Materials:** Instruction room with computers and printer, examples of print journals.

**Time Required:** 15 minutes

**Lesson:**

- Answer outstanding questions/address problems from last assignment.
- What is a journal article?
- Why do students need to use journal articles?
- How are journal articles provided to Dickinson?
- Paid subscriptions: why can't articles be retrieved directly through Google?
- What is the difference between a scholarly and a popular journal?
- How do you know if Dickinson subscribes to a journal? Explanation of Journal Locator: What it is and how to read it and interpret the dates and links.

**Action:** Take students to the print journal collection and have them each find one journal title.

**Assignment:** (Due the next time the librarian meets with the class). Students will each find 3 articles (should be reasonably different so students can't copy from one another) assigned by library instructor. At least one should be from a print journal. For *each* item, students should do the following:

- Provide a photocopy or printout of the first page of the article
- Write a citation in correct format [Chicago]
- Answer the following questions: 1) Who is the author/What are his/her credentials? 2) What is the thesis of the article? 3) For what type of audience is book/article intended?
- Write down *at least* one question or area of trouble encountered to be discussed in next class.

Assignment – Physically Locating Journal Articles

Librarian: \_\_\_\_\_

Due Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Professor: \_\_\_\_\_

Please perform ALL of the tasks on this list. For this assignment, you may not work in groups or share answers.

You have been provided with a list of three articles. For EACH article, do the following:

- ☐ Photocopy or print out the first page of each article and submit that page.
- ☐ Provide a citation in the correct [Chicago, MLA, APA] format.  
For more information about how to cite properly, see your librarian, consult the [*Chicago Manual of Style, etc.*] (several copies are available in the library), or visit the library's website:  
<http://lis.dickinson.edu/Library/Research/CitingRes/index.htm>
- ☐ Below each citation, answer the following questions. Questions should be answered in complete sentences.
  - Who is the author of the article and what are his/her credentials and expertise in this area of study?
  - What is the thesis statement of the article/What research question is the author trying to answer?
  - How does the content of this article compare to the other two you found? What makes this article unique?
- ☐ Submit *at least* one question or area of trouble you encountered while completing this project.