

The Reference Department of the Lorette Wilmot Library at Nazareth College


Resources for Research in Contemporary Issues

TWO IMPORTANT LIBRARY DATABASES

Academic Search Elite

Academic Search Elite is a "little bit of everything" database designed to support student research at the college level. Its subject coverage is broad and interdisciplinary, and includes scholarly journals as well as popular magazines.

Coverage of selected magazine titles begins as early as 1985. Years of coverage vary by individual title. Some publishers have placed an embargo on current issues, meaning that current articles are not available full text online for three to twelve months after publication.

Most periodicals listed in the database are full text, but not all of them are, and some may not be owned by the Library at all. If an article does not display a full text link, look for the  [Find this article](#) link next to the citation. Clicking on this link will open a new window with information about how to get access to the article.

Academic Universe (LEXIS-NEXIS)

Academic Universe (LEXIS-NEXIS) is a vast full text resource covering newspapers from throughout the United States and around the world. It also offers full text access to news broadcast transcripts from news organizations such as CNN and NPR. Some titles are covered as far back as the 1980's, but coverage varies by title. Coverage information is provided on *Academic Universe (LEXIS-NEXIS)* through its "Source List" links.

In addition to general news, *Academic Universe* offers several special categories, including

- ***Legal News (as well as full text law journals, laws and court cases)
- Business and Industry News
- College and University News - which includes full text access to *The Chronicle of Higher Education* and University Wire, a wire service for student newspapers.
- Medical News
- Non-English Language News - drawing on resources in a variety of European languages
- World News

For a selection of all available categories, use the Guided Search Menu. The Guided Search Menu also provides more options for limiting your search.

***This is by far the best database for law

OTHER LIBRARY DATABASES

Alternative Press Index

Alternative Press Index offers comprehensive **indexing** (no full text) of 300 alternative non-mainstream small press magazines and newspapers. Included are well-known magazines of political opinion, such as *The Progressive*, as well as more specialized publications, such as *Greenpeace*, *Off Our Backs*, *Peace Magazine*, and *Socialist Review*.

Please note that *Alternative Press Index* is strictly an index. In a few cases, if a publication is available directly from the publisher as an "e-zine", *Alternative Press Index* will provide a link to the publication's web site.

To determine the availability of a specific magazine or newspaper in the Library, do a title search for the name of the periodical in the **Find journals search box** on the Library's home page.

CQ Researcher

CQ Researcher may be familiar to you from high school as a source of information on current controversies in the news. The Library offers full-text access to *CQ Researcher*.

CountryWatch

CountryWatch provides full-text overviews of 192 countries, including environmental, social, political and economic conditions, as well as demographics. Full-text access to country-related news stories from 12 different newswires is also provided.

Those of you who are preparing presentations or are in teacher certification programs may want to investigate the *CountryWatch@School* link on the *CountryWatch* site, for online quizzes and other curriculum ideas.

Ethnic NewsWatch

Ethnic NewsWatch offers full-text articles from 200 different newspapers and magazines representing the multicultural press throughout the United States. *Ethnic NewsWatch* may be searched in Spanish or English.

GenderWatch

GenderWatch provides full-text access to a diverse selection of periodicals (including some journals) as well as government and nongovernmental organization reports on a variety of subjects related to gender.

New York Times Backfile (1851-2001)

Complete coverage, including advertisements, of the well-known "newspaper of record" from the year 1851 to the year 2001. Articles are displayed as PDF (Adobe) images. It is also possible to view articles in their original context using "Page Map" links.

For current coverage of *The New York Times* (2000 to the present), search *Academic Universe* using the Guided Search Menu.

Suggestions for Searching Licensed Databases for Contemporary Issues

When available, use **Guided or Advanced Menu options**.

Add words to your topic that suggest editorial content, such as:

recycling AND opinion

recycling AND editorial

recycling AND commentary

recycling AND (letter OR letters) (*for letters to the editor*)

Try adding key words such as debate or controversy to your topic:

NAFTA AND debate

Halliburton AND controversy

In EBSCOHost databases (e.g. *Academic Search Elite*), you can also use truncation:

War on Terror AND controvers*

An asterix after the root of the word - e.g., controvers* - broadens the search to include controversy, controversies, and controversial.

If you're searching for a specific point of view, add words to your search that express that point of view, for example:

free trade AND advocate

free trade AND oppose

Also try adding names of individuals or groups who have taken a public position:

ACLU AND USA PATRIOT Act

Richard Clarke and Al Qaeda

***Academic Search Elite* and *Masterfile Select* offer full text access to a number of magazines that identify themselves with a particular place on the political spectrum, for example:**

Right of center (Conservative): *National Review*, *American Spectator*, *American Enterprise*

Left of center (Liberal): *The Progressive*, *Mother Jones*, *The Nation*

You might also find it useful to glance through issues of *Liberal Opinion Weekly* or *Conservative Chronicle*, two newspapers that offer a sampling of current opinion, including political cartoons. Current issues of these two newspapers are available at the Reserve Desk downstairs.

Some databases offer background information on individual periodical titles they cover. Of course, many magazines also have their own web sites. Examples are attached to this handout.

You can also find background information on various periodicals in *Magazines for Libraries*, a reference book available for consultation at the Reference Desk. The section on "News and Opinion" magazines begins on page 1161.

(Note: Librarians sometimes refer to this reference book as "Katz", after its original authors.)

Books Purchased with Freshman Seminar and College Writing I & II in Mind

Contemporary World Issues

To scan a list of titles of individual volumes in this series, enter ***Contemporary World Issues*** as a **title search** in the Library's *WebPAC* (first search box on the Library's home page).

Each volume in the *Contemporary World Issues* series provides background information on a controversial subject such as animal rights or gun control. Included in each volume: a chronology of key events, biographies of notable individuals, relevant laws, statistical data, a list of organizations and a bibliography.

Editorials on File

Shelved in Reference, Main Floor, East Wing. Call Number: Reference 081 Edi

Editorials on File reprints editorials and political cartoons from newspapers in the United States on important events and issues. Housed in binders, one year to each binder.

Opposing Viewpoints Series

To scan a list of titles of individual volumes in this series, enter ***Opposing Viewpoints Series Unnumbered*** as a title search in the Library's *WebPAC*. Each volume in the *Opposing Viewpoints* series offers discussion of a controversial subject such as animal rights or censorship. Essays within each volume are generally organized in pairs, advocating different points of view.

Description of *National Review* from the database *Academic Universe Lexis-Nexis*:

Source Links

[Return to Search Form](#)

[Return to Source List](#)

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| <i>National Review</i> | |
| Issn | 0028-0038 |
| Coverage | From June 1998 through current |
| Frequency | Biweekly; usually on Monday; National Review Online; Irregular |
| Online Availability | Updated regularly - Atypical update schedule/as received from the vendor |
| Publisher | National Review |
| Description | <p>Access to certain freelance articles and other features within this publication (i.e. photographs, classifieds, etc...) may not be available.</p> <p>National Review is America's leading conservative journal of opinion. It was founded in 1945 by William F. Buckley, Jr., and is currently edited by Richard Lowry. It is published biweekly. Each issue contains about 11 articles, a section on Books, Arts & Manners, in addition to the regular sections of the magazine which include: Letters, For the Record, The Week, Letter from AI, Help!, On the Right and The Misanthrope's Corner. Also included are weekly stories from National Review Online and NRO Weekend.</p> |
| Data Format | Full-text |

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From *Dissent's* own web site: <http://www.dissentmagazine.org>

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>Current Issue</p>  | <h2 style="text-align: center;">About Dissent Magazine</h2> <p>Dissent is a quarterly magazine of politics and culture edited by Mitchell Cohen and Michael Walzer. In the words of the New York Times, Dissent "ranks among the handful of political journals read most regularly by U.S. intellectuals."</p> <p>A magazine of the left, Dissent is also a magazine of independent minds. A magazine of strong opinions, Dissent is also a magazine that welcomes the clash of strong opinions.</p> <p>Each issue features reflective articles about politics in the U.S., incisive social and cultural commentary, plus the most sophisticated coverage of European politics you'll find anywhere outside of Europe. As the Utne Reader says, "Politics, economics, and culture come together in every article, giving the entire publication a balance most political journals lack."</p> |
| <p>Subscribe !! <input type="button" value="Go"/></p> <p>Take advantage of our introductory Web rate (new subscribers only) of \$17 and enjoy provocative commentary and in-depth analysis of key social issues.</p> | |

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Local and Regional Newspapers

City Newspaper

Website: <http://www.rochester-citynews.com/gbase/Gyrosite/index.html>

The Library retains issues from the last six months. Newspapers are shelved on the Lower Level of the Library - against the wall near the Children's Literature Room.

The latest issue is available in the Main Floor Browsing Lounge.

Democrat and Chronicle

Website: <http://www.democratandchronicle.com>

The Library retains issues from the last four weeks. Newspapers are shelved on the Lower Level of the Library - against the wall near the Children's Literature Room.

The latest issue is available in the Main Floor Browsing Lounge.

Messenger Post Newspapers (Rochester Suburbs)

Website: <http://www.mpnewspapers.com/>

IMPORTANT NOTE: Web access to articles is not free. Information regarding fees for access is provided on the website.

The Library retains issues of *The Brighton Pittsford Post* from the last six months. Newspapers are shelved on the Lower Level of the Library - against the wall near the Children's Literature Room.

The latest issue is available in the Main Floor Browsing Lounge.

Using Academic Universe to Search Regional Newspapers

1. Locate *Academic Universe* in the **Databases by Name list** on the Library's website. Click on the *Academic Universe* link.
2. Once in *Academic Universe*, click on the tab labeled "**Guided News Search**".
3. From the first menu, select U. S. News.
4. From the second menu, select either the region of the US or the state desired.
5. Enter your topic in the search boxes provided.
6. Select a time period to be searched.
7. Click on the button "Search" or press the Enter key.

Some of the New York papers included in *Academic Universe* are: *The New York Times*, *Buffalo News*, *Albany Times-Union*, *Newsday*, *The Syracuse Post-Standard*, and *The Village Voice*. (Alas, NO *Democrat and Chronicle*!)