

## Library Glossary

**Abstract:** A short summary of an [article](#) in a scholarly [journal](#). It usually appears at the beginning of the article.

**Article:** An essay or research report, usually brief, published in a document that contains several such works. Examples of resources that contain articles include [magazines](#), [journals](#), newspapers, and encyclopedias.

**Bibliography:** A compilation of [citations](#) used while doing research for an [article](#) or book. A bibliography is normally placed at the end of the work, with entries arranged alphabetically by author.

**Boolean Operators:** Words (specifically AND, OR, and NOT) that may be used to join or arrange keywords in a search statement in order to narrow or expand your search in a [database](#). See the reverse side of this page on how to use Boolean Operators.

**Call Number:** Every book has a unique call number, like every house in a city has its own address. The call number appears on a label on the bound edge of the book. It is the “address” for where the book is located on the shelf. You can find a book’s call number in the [library catalog](#). We use the Library of Congress call number system, which simply means that the books are arranged alphabetically and numerically. See the Library Handbook for more information.

**Citation:** Complete information about a specific item. A citation for a book includes author, title, place of publication, publisher, and year published. A citation for an [article](#) in a [periodical](#) includes author, title of the article, title of the [periodical](#), volume number, pages, and date published. A group of citations gathered together is called a [bibliography](#).

**Database:** A searchable, electronic collection of information, often of [citations](#) to materials on a particular subject. Many databases will have [full text articles](#), [e-Books](#), and other resources.

**e-Book or e-Journal (or e-Anything):** The “e” means “electronic.” These are books, journal articles, images, or other information sources that are available on CD-ROMs, the Internet, [databases](#), or through other computerized means.

**Full Text:** An article or book that is available electronically in its entirety. A computerized [abstract](#) is not the full text of an article or book.

**Journal:** A [periodical](#) that contains scholarly [articles](#) written by professors, researchers, or other experts in a specific subject area. An [abstract](#) and a [bibliography](#) may appear with each article in a journal. Examples: *American Journal of Nursing*, *North Carolina State Bar Journal*.

**Library Catalog:** The main [database](#) or index of materials in the library. It is also called the “online catalog” since it is available electronically. You search the catalog by title, subject, or author to find the [call number](#) for locating books and other materials in the library.

**Magazine:** A [periodical](#) intended for general-interest reading rather than for scholarly research. An [abstract](#) and a [bibliography](#) will rarely appear with an article in a magazine. Examples: *Time*, *Southern Living*, *Newsweek*, *People Weekly*, *Consumer Reports*, *Sports Illustrated*.

**Periodical:** A publication that appears on a regular basis. Examples include newspapers, [magazines](#), and [journals](#). Periodicals have recent information at the time of their publication.