

# Sources About **Serials**

Bibliographic Databases: General-Purpose & Specialized;  
Serials qua Serials

# why do people want serials?

pleasure reading

news

research at various levels of depth & sophistication

citation verification

purchase/subscription

# what kind of stuff are we talking about?

magazines, periodicals, journals, newspapers—often called  
*serials* or *continuations* (continuous, v. discrete in  
monographs, etc)

popular and scholarly

incl conference proceedings, posters

(blogs, podcasts, wikis? tho mostly linear sources)

potentially on the brink of radical change, largely because  
of....

# the serial environment

## *publishers*

commercial (w/ increasing consolidation)

non-commercial/society

access (digitally) via databases (abstracting & indexing services, A&I) produced by *producers* marketed and provided by *vendors*

multiple vendors bundling various combinations of databases, chosen based on interface, price, coverage, consortial arrangements, etc

following rise of journal 16c, *Poole's* 1880s

# the serial environment

institutional repositories, open access sources

newspapers (and Craigslist)

JSTOR

# kinds of sources about serials

bibliographic databases

general-purpose

specialized

citation

sources about serials qua serials

# questions

1. Do smart people suffer from insomnia more?
2. Can you find me reviews of performances of *Chess*?
3. Are there many geographers using methodological individualism?
4. I found an article in *Early Childhood Research Quarterly* for my paper, but I need to know if it's scientific.
5. How many times has Robert Taylor's 1966 article in *College & Research Libraries* been cited?

# questions

2. Can you find me reviews of performances of *Chess*?

Lexis/Nexis, *Academic Search Complete*

**general-purpose database**

for a popular audience, covering popular materials  
(newspapers, general-audience magazines, incl.  
*Psychology Today*, etc)

often one-concept searches, using *recall* techniques



# questions

## 1. Do smart people suffer from insomnia more?

MEDLINE, PubMed, PsycINFO

**specialized database**

for a scholarly (research) audience, by subject, covering the scholarly journal/conference proceedings/book chapter literature

often multiple-concept searches, using *precision* techniques

*How would you decide which database to search for a given need?*

# questions

3. Are there many geographers using methodological individualism?

GeoBase

**subject-specific database**

sometimes the database is a concept

# database selection

by audience or level

by subject

by availability

by features of searching, coverage, format, etc

...and what about WorldCat? (discovery layers)

# Google Scholar

where does it fit?

more like Web of Science than anything else—citations,  
also metasearching

but...whence comes the stuff? and what message does it  
send?

*What's your opinion of Google Scholar's uses and  
drawbacks?*

# questions

4. I found an article in *Early Childhood Research Quarterly* for my paper, but I need to know if it's scientific.

*Ulrich's*

**serials qua serials**

for a professional audience, for acquisitions, understand, collections, decision-making

also includes indexing, publishing, history, frequency, features, formats, advertising, etc; not unlike *BIP*, for journals

# questions

5. How many times has Robert Taylor's 1966 article in *College & Research Libraries* been cited?

Web of Science (*Social Science Citation Index*)  
citation database

*You've got 60 seconds to describe the use of value of citation searching to someone who's unfamiliar with it. What do you say?*

primarily for use in citation searching (who has cited who, how many times, where, etc)

also a good metasearch database, when no (or many) obvious subject-specific specialized databases

also Journal Citation Reports, etc

the story

yesterday and today—and tomorrow

a substantial body of information, of temporary and long-term interest, available for the long haul

## a couple others to know and love

librarians, curiosities & grotesques

- linking software
- *Facts on File*
- *Periodical Title Abbreviations*
- *Gale Directory of Publications & Broadcast Media*
- *Alternative Press Index, Ethnic News Watch*
- *Gale Directory of Databases*