

What Information Do I Need?

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When using library resources, think of an inverted pyramid where you work from GENERAL resources to more DETAILED ones

QUICK REFERENCE

When looking for:

- encyclopedias, dictionaries, guides, handbooks
- background information
- definitions
- biographical information

BOOKS/EXHIBITION CATALOGUES

When looking for:

- in-depth information on a topic
- how to put your topic in context with other author's ideas
- historical information
- summaries of research to support an argument

PERIODICALS (Journals, Magazines or Newspapers)

When looking for:

- current and up-to-date information
- information on specific topics or ones with a narrow focus
- information on specific trades or organizations
- biographies and critiques of current contemporary artists
- reviews of books, exhibitions, products, etc.

NOTE the difference between types of periodicals:

Journals:

- are produced by universities or scholarly organizations
- are designed for a scholarly, academic audience
- are PEER-REVIEWED, which means that before any article is published it must pass through an editorial board of scholars (peers) who assess its merits

Magazines:

- are often produced commercial interests or special interest organizations
- are written for a broader audience, not just academics
- are not PEER-REVIEWED

Check the first few pages of a publication to find out about the submission guidelines, peer-review process, or editorial board. This will indicate if it is peer-reviewed

