Part I: Choosing an Article

There are many citations listed in the references section of your book, but not all of the citations are to journal articles that contain original research. Citations for books, websites, news transcripts, magazine articles, etc. are all intermixed with the journal article citations.

Citations NOT to choose


This citation is for a magazine article. You can tell this because the full date is listed rather than just the publication year.


This citation is for a book. You can tell this because the book edition and publisher information is listed.

Part II: Checking to see if the library has the article

To determine whether the library has the journal article you’ve chosen, follow these steps:

- Click the Full Text Finder link under the Find Articles and Databases tab on the library’s website.
- Type in the name of the journal and click search. In the above example, the title of the journal is Child Development.
Listed above are the results of the search. The journal citation had a date of 2004, which means the article we are looking for can be found in two different places in the library:

- **Pierce College Print Holdings** = the Periodicals section in the back of the library. Fill out a yellow magazine request (found next to the computers) and take it to the Periodicals desk. If the journal isn’t currently checked out, you can borrow it for one week using your Pierce ID card.

- **Academic Search Elite** = one of the library’s online databases. Click on the link to navigate your way to the actual journal and article. *Note: If you are doing this from off campus, you will need to use your Student ID number and PIN (MMDD) to use the databases.*

Somewhere on the next page will be a list of issues by date. Each database will look a little different. Clicking on 2004 expands that year’s issues. Since no issue number was listed in the journal citation, we will need to go through the issues one by one to find the article.

The article we wanted was on page 1694. Click on each issue to see which one contains the article. *Note: Issue 1 starts at page one and the page numbers continue in the following issues.*

Once you’ve navigated your way to the article, click either on html full-text or PDF to read the article.

### Part III: Determining whether the article contains original research

Does the article you’ve chosen contain original research? *Most* journal articles with original research will contain the following sections: title and abstract, introduction, methods, results, and discussion. If you are unsure if the article you’ve chosen contains original research, ask your instructor.

Still need help? Ask one of the librarians. We are here to help you.