Types of Sources

Periodicals are issued on a regular basis (periodically!) "Although each issue is complete in itself, its relationship to preceding issues is indicated by enumeration, usually issue number and volume number." Periodicals include newspapers, magazines, and academic journals.

Mono=One/Single/Alone. A monograph is a single publication that about a single subject and is published in one year. This includes most kinds of books. Tricky bits: sometimes monographs have multiple volumes due to the size of the content. "Serialized" monographs also exist, where books are released as part of a series or there may be book series such as Twilight or The Walking Dead. But basically, monographs=books.
Types of Periodicals
Academic Journal

An academic journal is a periodical. Some have broad scope (e.g., *Studies in English Literature, 1500-1900*); some are more narrowly focussed (e.g., *Chaucer Review*). Other examples: *Early American Literature*, *PMLA*, *ELH: English Literary History*

How are they published?

Most journals have a few issues a year (often published quarterly/4 times a year or monthly). An issue usually contains the following.

- An introduction to the issue by the editor.
- Scholarly articles, the substantial content of academic journals, are structured research papers that formally cite their sources.
- Reviews of relevant books or other literature in the discipline.
- Other information: Some journals include opinion columns or conference proceedings.

Journals have an editor, who is responsible for what gets printed in each issue. A scholar or team of scholars write up their research, format it according to the journal’s specifications, and submit it to the editor. The editor sends the content of the paper to other experts (peers) to review the paper. The peers give feedback. And the editor decides whether to accept it for publication--and when to publish it.
### Who is the audience?

Other scholars and researchers in the discipline.

### Who are the authors?

Scholars/experts in the field who have conducted a research project that includes a review of the existing scholarship on the topic and their own original research.

### Where do I find them?

Some are available free online; many require a subscription. Our library provides access to many journals individually or through databases. Search the Library Catalog to access a particular title.
Newspapers are typically published daily or weekly and contain the following:

- Reporting of recent events
- Opinion articles or letters to the editor
- Interviews
- Reviews of relevant books, films, music, restaurants, etc.

Newspapers have an editor (or a team of editors) who is responsible for what gets printed in each issue.

A journalist writes an article and submits it to the editor.
Newspapers

Who is the audience?
Anyone interested in daily events. No specialized knowledge required. Typically, newspapers are aimed for a specific geographic region (e.g., the Sylva Herald), though many papers have a national audience (NY Times, Washington Post).

Who are the authors?
Journalists/Reporters
Letters to the editor are written by readers.
Editorials are written by members of the newspaper's editorial board; Op-Eds usually feature "outside contributors" and the paper's columnists.

Where do I find them?
Current issues may be found for free online or with a subscription. Print copies are often sold at local stores. Our library provides access to many newspaper subscriptions individually or through databases. Search the Library Catalog to find out how to access a particular title.
Magazine

A magazine is a periodical intended for the general reader. Their purpose may be to entertain, provide news, provide information about a hobby or special interest (e.g., gardening, motorcycles) promote a viewpoint, or sell a product. Examples: Vanity Fair, Vogue, Time, Atlantic, Sports Illustrated, Psychology Today, Rolling Stone, New Yorker.

Most magazines have several issues a year (often published monthly or weekly). An issue usually contains the following:

- An introduction to the issue by the editor.
- Brief, readable articles. Articles may cite their sources, but rarely include a reference list or bibliography.
- Reviews of relevant books or films.
- Regular columns written by members of the magazine's staff. These can be informational or opinion.
- Photographs and advertisements.
- Literary magazines, like The New Yorker, The Georgia Review or Glimmer Train, feature fiction, poetry, and essays.

How are they published?

Magazines have an editor (or editorial board), who is responsible for what gets printed in each issue.

A professional writer, who may or may not be an expert on the topic, submits an article to the editor. There is no peer review process.
Magazines

Who is the audience?
Anyone interested in the topics covered by the magazine. No previous knowledge required.

Who are the authors?
Professional writers who do not have to be an expert on the topic.

Where do I find them?
Magazines usually require a paid subscription, though you can read some articles for free online. Our library provides access to many subscriptions individually or through databases. Search the Library Catalog to find out how to access a particular title.
Trade Journal

A trade journal is "a periodical devoted to disseminating news and information of interest to a specific category of business or industry." These are often published by a professional association and are meant to provide practical and timely advice to practitioners.

How are they published?

Trade journals have several issues a year (often published monthly or weekly). An issue usually contains the following:

- An introduction to the issue by the editor.
- Brief articles that may include professional jargon and technical details.
- Articles may have brief reference lists, but they are typically not the lengthy research papers found in peer-reviewed journals.
- Reviews of relevant books or films.
- Regular columns written by practicing professionals from the field.
- Photographs are common.

An author, generally an expert or professional in the field, submits an article to the editor. There is no peer review process.
Trade Journals

Who is the audience?
Practicing professionals in the field.

Who are the authors?
Members of the particular trade or experts in a related topic.

Where do I find them?
Trade journals usually require a paid subscription, though you can read some articles for free online. Our library provides access to many subscriptions individually or through databases. Search the Library Catalog to find out how to access a particular title.
Types of Monographs
Authored Books

A book that is written by an individual, multiple individuals, or a "corporate author" (an organization or institution such as the Centers for Disease Control or the Modern Languages Association).

Examples of authored books

- *Alexander Hamilton* by Ron Chernow
- *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker
- *The American H.D.* by Annette Debo
- *MLA Handbook* by the Modern Languages Association of America.

How are they published?

The author writes a novel, scholarly monograph, or a collection of poetry, essays, or short stories and submits it to an editor at a publishing company. Sometimes there is a proposal process and a contract or agreement with the editor and publisher before the work is written.
Edited Books

An edited book is "prepared for publication by a person other than the author." 4

Examples of edited books:

- A volume of scholarly essays on the same topic; sometimes with various points of view. Example: The Oxford Handbook of Shakespearean Tragedy.
- An anthology of literary works by many authors. Example: The Norton Anthology of African American Literature.
- A collection of primary materials such as letters or personal narratives. Examples: James Baldwin: The FBI File or The Letters of Sylvia Plath

How are they published?

The editor, usually a scholar, collects or recruits writing by other authors and organizes and compiles it. Sometimes these works have been published elsewhere (as in the case of most anthologies); sometimes the editor solicits original contributions (as in the case of most scholarly edited volumes). The editor is responsible for an introduction to the material as well as organization and annotations. This scholar works with an editor or editorial board of a publisher (such as a university press) to publish and distribute the work.
Sources
Footnotes 1, 3, 4: Dictionary for Information and Library Science