



Current Events

How Do I... Undergraduate Research Guides

Part of the "Finding Specific Kinds of Information Series"

In this guide you will learn how to:

- *Understand the role of publication timing and limitations*
- *Combine scholarly sources with current events*
- *Locate current events information in a variety of formats.*

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Understanding the role of publication timing and limitations:

The publication of current event information follows a timeline that will impact when scholarly information becomes available. Information about current events can first be found via online news sources, such as CNN and MSNBC. They will then appear in newspapers within the next few days, followed by weekly news magazines. Scholarly information about a current event can take up to a year or more to appear in print as scholarly articles take longer to research, write, and publish than do news stories. If you are researching a very current topic, you should not expect to find scholarly sources about that particular event. However, you may find information about similar events that will be useful to your research.

Suggested strategies if you need scholarly sources:

Choose events that have been going on for at least several months, older events, or events that can be placed in historic perspective. By choosing events that meet one or more of these criteria, you should be able to locate sufficient scholarly sources on your topic, which you can then combine with news sources.

Sources for Locating Current Events:

Print sources for current events topics.

Articles in these sources tend to be brief and to report or describe the facts, offering little or no analysis. While these may be good sources for descriptions and facts, most research assignments require academic, authoritative, and detailed analyses of events. Browse recent issues of the following for ideas:

- Facts on File - Undergraduate Reference Collection, call number Q 070 Ed46
- Editorials on File - Undergraduate Reference Collection, call number 051 FACT
- Newsweek - Undergraduate Library periodicals
- Time - Undergraduate Library periodicals
- CQ Researcher - Undergraduate Reference Collection, call number 300.97305 CQ. (Also Online)

Online sources for current events topics.

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- Lexis-Nexis Academic - The first place to look for Newspaper articles. Click "Guided News Search" and follow the steps.
- Newspaper Source (EBSCO) - Identifies articles in regional U.S. newspapers, international newspapers, newswires and newspaper columns, as well as TV and radio news transcripts.

Tips for Researching Topics of Local Interest:

Finding information:

Local news information may not be of national interest and, thus, will not appear in national sources. The best sources for local information include:

- Daily Illini, UIUC student newspaper
- The News Gazette, Champaign-Urbana local newspaper
- Chicago Tribune, regional newspaper

Other local resources specifically collect and document campus and local history:

- University Archives - contains records and publications from university offices.
- Student Life and Culture Archival Program - contains information documenting student life.

Check out other How Do I... Guides in this series, Finding Specific Kinds of Information:

- Finding Criticisms
- Finding Editorials
- Finding Local & Regional Information
- Finding Primary Sources
- Finding Pro-Con Arguments
- Finding Reviews
- Finding Statistics