

PERIODICALS IN GENEALOGY – INDEXES, LISTS AND BIBLIOGRAPHIES,
compiled by James P. LaLone, rev. 3 Mar 2017

I find it interesting that despite the large amounts of genealogical and historical articles published, very little mention is made of them when people inquire about persons, locations or subjects/topics they are interested in researching. Using the internet has made instant gratification number one on the list, which seems to be hurting research abilities. The internet seemingly has become the new “bible”. If it's not there it doesn't exist and of course everything is true. Even if everything were “true”, one must remember we are dealing with humans who are not perfect. Errors do occur, I am finding about an 80% error rate in the posted genealogies of the families I am researching.

For a general background see *A History of Early American Magazines 1741-1789*, by Lyon N. Richardson.

One of the first searches may be to use Cyndi's List (<http://www.cyndislist.com/>) when searching a surname or more likely a place or topic. Periodicals can be found under the topic category - Magazines, Journals, Columns & Newsletters: Print & Electronic Publications for Genealogy (<http://www.cyndislist.com/magazines/>). Under “General Resources” you will find a very nice guide for using periodicals in your research (<http://www.barbsnow.net/GenPeriodicals.htm>). See also: http://www.genealogy.com/articles/research/34_kathy.html . There are a number of general genealogical publications which may be available at your local newsstand or bookstore; a few of them are listed in the mentioned guide, not only do the magazines have their own webpage but many also have a Facebook page. You may want to subscribe to a few because they are the “*Time*” and “*Look*” magazines of the genealogy world. There are also some society journals which are considered very professional (again mentioned in the guide) which again are worth looking at if your local library subscribes to them. However, if you are researching a particular family, there are also numerous family newsletters which you may want to subscribe to. If you have a number of families living in an area over a number of generations then the newsletters/journals as well as individual publications issued by the local genealogical and historical organizations may well be worth a membership. Then there are topical newsletters such as for the Civil War or War of 1812. There is a ton of stuff available; it is just a matter of looking it up.

Indexes are still another matter, whether a typo or a misreading of the word/name could mean a reference may not appear in your search. Being aware of the different indexes, lists and bibliographies that exist and can enhance your research capabilities tremendously. The purpose of this article will focus on periodicals.

In the guide mentioned above is information on PERiodical Source Index (PERSI), a link also given in Cyndi's List. This is a master index of genealogical and historical publications produced by various societies and also some scholarly works. The list is massive but by no means complete. Some foreign publications are covered such as the British Isles and Canada. PERSI is free if your library or Family History Center subscribe to Find My Past (http://search.findmypast.com/search/periodical-source-index?utm_source=bing&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=US_PERSI&utm_term=genealogical%20periodicals&utm_content=US_Periodical%20Search%20Index&gclid=CJm43dPyutICFQHRDQodizQCSA&gclsrc=ds&dclid=CNuL6tPyutICFcoJgQodBK0OLw). The pay-for site is also going to make the actual articles available, see below. Other indexes mentioned in the guide are:

*GPAI (*Genealogical Periodical Annual Index*)

*Index to Genealogical Periodicals by Donald Jacobus

*Index to American Genealogies, by J. Munsell's Sons, covers both books and periodicals. This is available through Google books -

<http://books.google.com/books?id=p8XAAAAMAAJ&printsec=frontcover&dq=Index+to+American+Genealogies&hl=en&sa=X&ei=WAjvUtHsDcTuyAGQtYDQDg&ved=0CDYQ6AEwAA#v=onepage&q=Index%20to%20American%20Genealogies&f=false>

*Bibliographia Genealogica Americana: an Alphabetical Index to American Genealogies and Pedigrees, by Daniel Steele Durrie, mainly an index of books but does include some periodicals. This is also available through Google books - http://books.google.com/books?id=q1v_-pQxxkQC&pg=PA26&dq=Index+to+American+Genealogies&hl=en&sa=X&ei=WAjvUtHsDcTuyAGQtYDQDg&ved=0CEwQ6AEwBA#v=onepage&q=Index%20to%20American%20Genealogies&f=false

An index of historical publications is covered in

*Social Sciences Index, 1974 on, (formerly: International Index, 1907-1965; and Social Sciences & Humanities Index, 1949-1974)

*Humanities Index, 1974 on (formerly International Index, see above)

*The Combined Retrospective Index Set to Journals in History, 1838-1974 (C.R.I.S.), Annadel N. Wile, Executive editor, 1977.

*Jstor (<http://www.jstor.org/>) is an online index which includes scholarly journals, it is a subscription site but includes some free items also. Check your local college or university to see if it available. See also: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/JSTOR>.

*Archaeological journals could be of interest when researching a house history, especially if for an early period when there may not be a lot of written documentation, see <http://dougsarchaeology.wordpress.com/list-of-archaeology-journals/> for a listing of periodicals.

* Legal periodicals: <http://cslguides.charlottelaw.edu/Wills>

The Library of Congress also has a number of finding aids or guides based on their holdings, many of which may be available through you local libraries -

http://www.loc.gov/rr/genealogy/bib_guid/genperiosubj.html

For British indexes see:

*The Genealogist's Guide, by George W. Marshall, covers books and periodicals. This is also available through Google books -

<http://books.google.com/books?id=mABAAAAQAAJ&printsec=frontcover&dq=The+Genealogist%27s+Guide&hl=en&sa=X&ei=ZR3vUo28LsTQyAG-1oGQDg&ved=0CCsQ6AEwAA#v=onepage&q=The%20Genealogist%27s%20Guide&f=false>

*The Genealogist's Guide, by Geoffrey B. Barrow, covers books and periodicals.

*A Catalogue of Pedigrees Hitherto Unindexed, by G. W. Marshall, covers books and periodicals. This is also available through Google books -

http://books.google.com/books?id=jk1tAAAAMAAJ&printsec=frontcover&dq=A+Catalogue+of+Pedigrees&hl=en&sa=X&ei=NR_vUpfLKI6MyAGau4GYCg&ved=0CDYQ6AEwAA#v=onepage&q=A%20Catalogue%20of%20Pedigrees&f=false

For historical publications see:

*Royal Historical Society: Annual Bibliography of British and Irish History (various years), covers

books and periodicals.

For French publications (includes some Quebec) see:

*Répertoire de généalogies françaises imprimées, by Etienne Arnaud, 3 vols., covers books and periodicals.

*Bibliographie généalogique héraldique et nobiliaire de la France des origines à nos jours. Imprimés et manuscrits, 5 vols., by Gaston Saffroy, covers books and periodicals.

For Canadian periodicals see:

* <http://www.canadiana.ca/en/Early-Canadian-Periodicals>

For Dutch:

<http://www.cbg.nl/index.php/EN?taal=EN>

Europe:

http://www.loc.gov/rr/genealogy/bib_guid/foreigneuro.html Lists many “how to” books which will often contain sources including periodicals & societies.

Germany:

[Der Schlüssel : Gesamtinhaltsverzeichnisse mit Ortsquellennachweisen für genealogische, heraldische und historische Zeitschriftenreihen](#) (The Key: Complete Content Lists With Local Source References For Genealogical, Heraldic And Historical Journals), by Reise, Heinz.

Poland:

https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Poland_Periodicals

BIBLIOGRAPHIES:

A useful tool is bibliographies, providing all sorts of references and sources to get you started. No matter what reference/genealogical/historical books you read always check the bibliography in back for further leads.

*A World Bibliography of Bibliographies, and of Bibliographical Catalogues, Calendars, Abstracts, Digests, Indexes and the Like, by Theodore Besterman. A supplement has also been issued. A listing of bibliographies to get you started on various topics which may include listings of articles of various subjects of interest.

Some specialty bibliographies are:

*A Guide & Bibliography to Research on Yugoslavs in the United States & Canada, by Adam S. Eterovich, 1978, Palo Alto.

*Bibliography of Irish Family History and Genealogy, by Brian de Breffny, 1974, Dublin.

*Blacks in Selected Newspapers, censuses & Other Sources: an Index to Names and Subjects, by James de T. Abajian, 1977, Boston.

*Ethnographic Bibliography of North America, 5 vls. Revised, by George P. Murdock & T. O’Leary.

*Great Lakes Maritime History: Bibliography & Sources of Information, by Dr. Charles E. & Jeri B. Feltner, 1982, Dearborn.

*Military Bibliography of the Civil War, by C. E. Dornbusch, New York Public Library, 1967.

*Index to Michigan Research Found in Genealogical Periodicals, by Maud Quigley, 1979, Grand Rapids.

*Bibliographie de l'Historie du Quebec et du Canada / Bibliography of the History of Quebec and Canada, by Paul Aubin and Louis-Marie Cote (bilingual), 2 vols. Includes books, periodicals and thesis.

Various unpublished lists and indexes are also available at the local level for collections held by a genealogical or historical group or library. Many libraries have local history file drawers which usually are newspaper clippings but also sometimes magazine articles or manuscripts. Nothing should be overlooked.

The various internet search engines can bring up book titles or magazine articles (or at the least mention of them).

*Google <https://www.google.com/>

*Dogpile <http://www.dogpile.com/>

*Ask <http://www.ask.com/?o=0&l=dir>

*Bing <http://www.bing.com/>

*Mocavo (a genealogy search engine, free, but you must register) <https://www.mocavo.com/>

It should be noted if you are searching for foreign words that some search features may be accent sensitive.

Also, be aware of spelling variations in doing your search, try them all. Use topics/subject searches. Some of the sites may have names but the search engine may not look at those, so try searching locations, too.

See also: http://www.loc.gov/rr/genealogy/bib_guid/bibguide.html

Where to get copies of the articles.

PERSI is created by the Genealogy Department of the Allen County Public Library in Ft. Wayne, IN. If you have never been there it is well worth the trip. You can copy the articles yourself or they will make copies (<http://www.genealogycenter.org/docs/default-source/resources/articlerequest.pdf?sfvrsn=2>). The articles will also be available through a paid website:

<http://blog.familytreemagazine.com/insider/2014/02/05/FindmypastcomAddsPERSIGenealogicalIndex.aspx>

You can also write the various local historical and genealogical groups to get copies of their periodical or article you desire. Check to see if they have an online presence, they may have posted some of their articles.

Check to see if the periodical could be obtained on interlibrary loan.

Another possibility is to get someone in the area you are interested in to make a copy (don't forget to reimburse them). Placing a query on one of the various query/message boards may get you a response.

The following are specific to helping fellow genealogists -

* Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness (outside USA):

www.facebook.com/groups/raogkinternational

*Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness (within USA):

www.facebook.com/groups/raogkUSA

* Look-Up Angel Volunteers

<http://www.genealogywise.com/group/lookupvolunteers>

Then you can always look close to home at the periodical holdings for your local libraries (not just public but educational ones also). For example here is one for New Orleans, Louisiana:

<http://nutrias.org/guides/genguide/appendixb.htm>

You can look beyond genealogical and historical publications for articles which may be helpful see:

* Poole's Index to Periodical Literature, by William F. Poole, Google book -

<http://books.google.com/books?id=nFTAfwzKDwoC&printsec=frontcover&dq=Poole%E2%80%99s+Index+to+Periodical+Literature&hl=en&sa=X&ei=8NHvUuOnIMWGyAGP14DIBw&ved=0CDIQ6AEwAQ#v=onepage&q=Poole%E2%80%99s%20Index%20to%20Periodical%20Literature&f=false>

*Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature, 1890 on. Some of these may be available through Google books and Archive Internet (see below).

* Listing of various periodical indexes:

http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/awhhtml/awgc1/periodical_indexes.html

* A "how to" lesson for using the indexes, including newspapers:

<http://www.ccsf.edu/Library/printindexes.pdf>

While you may think of only books when you mention "Google Books"

(<http://books.google.com/bkshp?hl=en&tab=wp>) or "Archive Internet" (<https://archive.org/>) but they also have copies of journals and society publications, not only in English but other languages as well. However, because of copyright laws only full copies of material printed before 1923 will be available.

For France and some Quebec material see:

* <http://gallica.bnf.fr/> Covers both books and periodicals

Other sites with similar objectives are:

*Hathi Trust - <http://www.hathitrust.org/>

*Project Gutenberg - http://www.gutenberg.org/wiki/Main_Page

You are only limited by your imagination.