Looking for Journal Articles

N.B.: Magazines are called Journals, Periodicals or Serials in a library!

There are a number of places that you would look at when searching for journals & journal articles:

- OPAC (Library Catalogue)
- Electronic journals
- Internet
- Databases
- The journal shelves

Don’t rely on any one option as no one source of information is completely comprehensive in any given subject, and you will be missing out on possibly useful information by just sticking to the catalogue/one single database.

Articles on a Particular Topic
If you are looking for articles on a particular subject or person/company, there are three main areas to look at:

- Online databases
- Paper/print journals in the library
- Electronic Journals page

Online Databases-
Search the database using a keyword or phrase. Get list of articles for that topic. If the database has the full-text of the article, print it out/save it/email it to yourself.

If not, check Library Catalogue to see if the library subscribes to the journal. If it is available as an e-journal on the library website, click on the full-text link on the e-journal page. Then, click on the relevant year and then the link to the issue the article is in, and see whether it is available as full-text. If it is, you can download it/print it out.

However, if the journal available in print format, go down to the journal shelves and photocopy the article in the library.

If we do not hold the particular journal (and article) you are looking for at all, it is possible that another library e.g. TCD, UCD, NCAD has it. Ask the librarian for help in your search.

In addition to searching other library catalogues for your journal, you might also find the article you are looking for on the internet. Search both Google and Google Scholar using the article title in quotes.

Paper/Print Journals-
It is possible that journals held solely in the library in paper copy (these print journals are not listed on the online databases) have articles on your chosen subject.

To look for journals on a particular topic, go to the Art & Design Subject Gateway and then click on the ‘Journals – Print’ bar. You will then see links to lists of print journals on a range of Art & Design topics including Fine Art.
Alternatively, go to the OPAC homepage. Click on the Advanced (Keyword) Search button. Type in the topic you are interested in, e.g. “Art”. Limit Location to “Grangegorman”. Then limit Material Type to “Journal”. Click on the Submit button.

The results screen will show a list of journals on your topic of interest.

Other publications such as yearbooks could be included in that list as they are considered ‘serial publications’.

Having obtained a list of suitable periodicals/journals from the OPAC which are held in the library, go down to the shelves.

Browse through the table of contents of the past few issues/years, depending on how far back you need to go.

N.B.: browsing is still a very useful and necessary part of looking for information in addition to using online resources. It builds up expertise at using journals and knowledge of individual titles. It can also prove to be an unexpected source of inspiration.

Electronic Journals Page

You can also go to the Electronic Journals page and call up a list of journals from a selection of given subject headings. You can then browse through the full-text availability of each e-journal or identify which database the e-journals you are interested in are in, and then search those databases using keywords relevant to your area of interest.

Looking for a Particular Journal/Journal Article

Go to the OPAC homepage.

Do a Journal Search for your journal title.

If our subscription is to the paper version, check the journal record on OPAC for what year we started subscribing to it (LIB HAS), whether we are still subscribing to it, whether we received the particular issue(s) you are interested in (the ‘Latest Received’ link), etc.

Go down to shelves and find the particular issue you want or browse through the issues available.

N.B.: Current issues for the last few months/a year, and older issues (usually bound together each year) are held on separate shelves. Both are shelved in alphabetical order.

If the journal is available as an e-journal, click on the full-text link on the e-journal page. You can browse through the years that are available.

If you are looking for a particular article, click on the relevant year and then the issue the article is in, and see whether it is available as full-text. If it is, you can download it/print it out.

Please ask the librarian for help at any time.