

Information Research Terminology*

Abstract: brief, objective summary of a book, article, or other work.

Article: composition written by one or more authors published under a separate title in a collection or *periodical*

Catalog: comprehensive list of the books, periodicals, maps, and other materials in a given collection, arranged in systematic order to facilitate retrieval (usually alphabetical by author, title, and/or subject).

Database: regularly updated file of digitized information (bibliographic references, abstracts, full-text documents, directory entries, images, statistics, etc.) related to a various subjects or fields, consisting of records in a uniform format organized for ease of use (speedy search & retrieval).

Electronic resources: materials consisting of data for reading and manipulation by a computer, often available for remote use via a network, such as the Internet (AACR2). The category includes software applications, electronic texts, bibliographic databases, etc.
Abbreviated **eresources**. cf. [MCC Electronic Resources page](#)

'Free' web: information available at no charge via the World Wide Web, for which the user must exercise greater discrimination in assessing its accuracy and authority.

Full-text (fulltext): when an electronic resource (eg. a bibliographic database, online reference work, etc.) provides the entire text [or a significant portion] of a work indexed in it (article, encyclopedia, report).

Index: alphabetically arranged list of entries consisting of the personal names, places, and subjects in a printed or electronic work. In printed works entries refer the user to where information pertaining to the heading is found (page numbers). For electronic works lists of periodical articles on a subject are created when users search for terms.

Journal: a periodical devoted to original research within a specific discipline, usually published quarterly, bimonthly, or monthly. They are often called 'scholarly' or 'academic' publications since academic scholars in the discipline/field write the articles. Most are peer-reviewed.

Periodical: a publication issued at regular stated intervals without prior decision as to when the final issue will appear. The category includes items such as newspapers, newsletters, magazines, and journals.

*Adapted from **ODLIS: Online Dictionary:** <http://lu.com/odlis/>