# Books vs. journals, newspapers & magazines

Information can be found in different formats. For your assignments, you should typically consult and cite a mix of books and periodicals (journals, newspapers, and magazines, which are published "periodically"). Knowing the difference between them will help you determine what’s best for your assignment.

## Books
- In-depth and broad examination of a topic
- Longer lag between an event or discovery and a book's publication. As a result...
  - More complete information (causes, effects, long-term consequences, fuller conclusions, etc.)
  - Deeper analysis
  - Broader historical perspective; more contextual both within and outside of a discipline
- Contain original research that may cover multiple experiments or span several years
- More cumulative coverage of a topic
- Longer: 100 to several hundred pages
- Published once, though revised editions may come out later

## Journals, Newspapers and Magazines
- May be in-depth but only on a specific topic
- Cover recent developments and events with little time lapse. As a result...
  - Information is current but may be incomplete
  - Captures “the spirit of the moment” (especially newspapers and magazines)
  - Journals are important for reporting fast-paced, competitive or time-sensitive research
- Journals have original research and typically focus on one experiment; newspapers and magazines may refer to research studies, but do not contain original research
- Limited coverage without much historical overview or context
- Shorter: a few hundred words (newspaper articles) up to around 30 pages (journal articles)
- Composed of volumes and issues published on a regular basis