

research material, these periodicals provide quick summaries that give you background and help you determine the issues surrounding a topic.

Scholarly journals also can be good resources for debaters. Many may be written in obscure language that may be difficult to read, and they will not always be as timely as popular magazines. Nevertheless, you should consult these because they will cover a topic in more depth than popular magazines do. They may also point you to further sources for research.

An excellent way to research periodicals is to use the several periodical indexes available. For example, the *Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature* catalogs more popular periodicals; the *Social Science Citation Index* catalogs academic periodicals related to the social sciences. Ask your librarian for help locating these and other catalogs. Some of these materials are available as online services, which we discuss below. If your library has one of these services your job will be much easier. Usually these databases permit key word searches that lead you not only to the appropriate citation but also to the full text of the article. If you cannot find your article online or in the library's holdings, you may be able to order it through interlibrary loan.

The procedure for researching pamphlets and brochures is similar to that for researching periodicals, unless the pamphlets and brochures are only located online or directly from the group publishing the pamphlets or brochures.

NEWSPAPERS

Newspapers provide valuable and timely information that is specific to local areas or countries. In addition, they often present features that offer perspective on many sides of an issue.⁴ Newspaper editorials, while having an editorial bias, also provide useful information for developing arguments.

Of course, you may locate evidence and arguments in newspapers by simply purchasing a daily paper, or you can find many newspapers free on the Internet. However, if you want to research articles that have been printed in the past, you will need to go to newspaper indexes. In addition, online services such as the *National Newspaper Index* and the INFOTRAC Full Text Newspaper Collection will help you locate articles. Other databases, such as PROQUEST and Lexis-Nexis, which we discuss below, also index and provide full-text retrieval of newspaper articles.

ONLINE SERVICES

An almost unlimited supply of research material exists in electronic form. When you think "electronic," you probably think of the Internet, but a vast amount of quality materials is available from online services to which your library subscribes. These services provide specialized indexes for various types of information. Databases such as EBSCO Host, INFOTRAC, PROQUEST, the *Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature*, and Lexis-Nexis offer citations, abstracts, and even full-text document retrieval. Each database indexes different material, but most include major newspapers and periodicals. Lexis-Nexis even tracks law reviews. The Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center also has an online database