

## I've Got a Citation; How Do I Find the Article?

A few weeks ago, my art historian wife needed to use **Ship Index.org** to track a British naval ship. Of course I was excited about the additional revenue, but her next question was somewhat inevitable: "Do you have access to *Mariner's Mirror*?" Finding a specific article after you've found the citation is a tricky thing, especially if you're not affiliated with an academic institution, but there are a few paths to take.

In 2000, my brothers and I and a friend started a company called **Serials Solutions** with the goal of solving the problem described above. Each installation is customized for a specific library, but you can still use the resource as a place to start. (Disclaimer: I left that company in 2009, and have no affiliation with it anymore.) Also, competing products do the same thing, and they'll work for this example, too. In fact, you'll find that the institution you select ends up being more important than the vendor creating its list.

You can start your search at home online but, depending on the resource, your physical presence in a good library may be required in the end. If you have access to a nearby library, it's worth starting at their website. If it's an academic library, then they almost certainly have an **e-journal list**, which you can access from off-campus in most cases. Most—but certainly not all—academic libraries will allow local community members to use the databases to which they subscribe. I live a mile from **Cornell University**; I have no affiliation with them, but I can access their database online and then follow up in the library on campus if need be. To see their list, go to <http://library.cornell.edu>, then click on "E-journal Titles" just under the search box. Most public libraries have a similar list; ask the librarian if you can't locate it on their homepage.

If you don't live near a major research library, or you'd like comprehensive results, you might as well start at the top. **Harvard's** list is at <http://hul.harvard.edu/lib/journals.html>; the **Library of Congress** has a list at <http://eresources.loc.gov/search-S2> (they actually have multiple products that do this; each are linked under "Other E-Journal Tools," and only one actually requires a login); **Cambridge University's** list is at <http://bit.ly/CambEjnl>. These e-journal lists, which generally include current and historic newspapers, magazines, freely accessible journals, some

books, scholarly journals, and other content, will guide you to the databases that you need.

It's often helpful to start searching at a few of the largest research libraries to find out which databases contain the content you need; from there, you can determine if a library near you has any of those databases. Most libraries will have a page where they list all of their databases, and that can be a helpful tool for figuring out where to go.

Or, through the largest collections, you can usually find out which publisher (if any) offers the journal, and whether you can purchase an article directly from the publisher. Be forewarned: this can be an expensive route. Taylor & Francis, current publisher of *Mariner's Mirror*, sells PDF versions of their articles for \$39 per article. The Nautical Research Guild, on the other hand, sells selected articles of their journal, *Nautical Research Journal*, for \$2.50 each at <http://www.thenrg.org>, and a complete run of the journal on CD for the cost of one issue of *Mariner's Mirror*.

There are other options, of course. You can check your local library's online catalog to see if it has the magazine in print, and, if so, which issues it owns. (Some libraries include electronic journal holdings in the online catalog, while some include print journals in the e-journals list—others just have two different places one must look. Its online catalog, however, will accurately show its print journal holdings.) You can also check the journal title in **WorldCat** (<http://worldcat.org>) and then type in your ZIP or postal code to find libraries near you that own the title. Note, however, that WorldCat doesn't include all public library holdings and is less comprehensive outside the US. It also won't indicate the issues or dates that a library holds, and you will still need to check the library's local catalog to see if it has the specific issue you seek. Your local public library will almost always be able to obtain articles for you through its interlibrary loan service; while they usually do not charge for this service, they welcome your financial support so they can continue doing this good work.

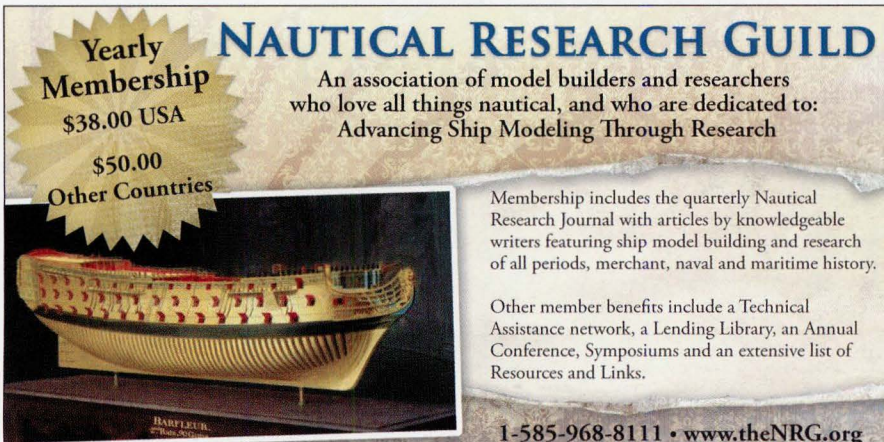
Suggestions for other sites worth mentioning are welcome at [peter@shipindex.org](mailto:peter@shipindex.org). See <http://shipindex.org> for a free compilation of over 150,000 ship names from indexes to dozens of books and journals. †



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