

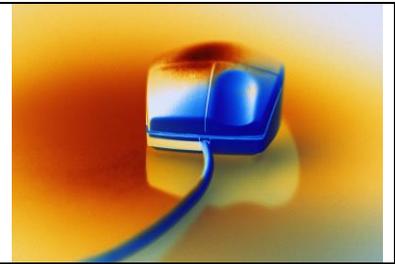
## Finding Periodical Articles about Your Geographic Area of Interest Using PERSI

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### Types of Periodical Publications with Significant Genealogical Information

- genealogical society publications
- historical society publications
- family/surname society publications
- ethnic society publications
- special interest group publications
- technology and online publications

### Benefits of Incorporating Periodical Use into One's Genealogical Research

- source materials
- Bible records & other unique and forgotten sources of data
- lists new publications/book reviews
- ancestor charts/family group sheets
- lists of upcoming local, regional, and national conferences and seminars
- lists of projects and other local events
- acquisitions lists/holdings of area & regional libraries and archives
- research tips
- more timely appearance of data
- variety of material types in one publication

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## Periodical Source Index— [www.GenealogyCenter.info/persi](http://www.GenealogyCenter.info/persi)

The *PERiodical Source Index* (PERSI) is the largest subject index to genealogical, historical, and ethnic periodical publications published largely in North America and the British Isles.

- More than 3.02 million subject entries (and growing!) comprise the PERSI database.
- Presently surname publications are not included in PERSI though there are plans to do so in the future. Current focus is on geographic and ethnic publications.
- PERSI is not an every name or every word index—it is a subject index.
- When engaging the keyword search features/options, it is important to know the keywords being searched are from the titles (or title entries) rather than the entire article. This will influence the terms one may choose to use.
- Defining/limiting terms: dates, occupations, organization names, ethnic group, religion, record.
- Whether initially searching in a new database or entering new terms in a familiar database, it is often prudent to enter the most conservative number of terms first to determine the outer bounds of a general result set. If the result set is too big, entering more defining terms can be done.

### Subject Terms/Record Types in PERSI to Categorize/Index Periodical Articles

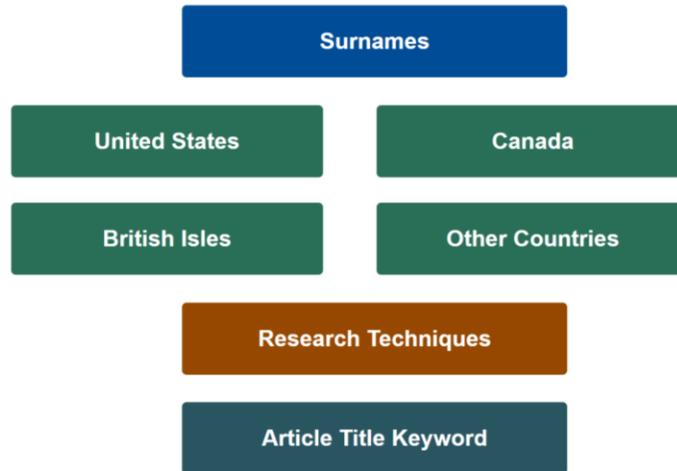
- |                 |                |                   |                 |
|-----------------|----------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| • Biographies   | • Directories  | • Naturalization  | • Tax Lists     |
| • Cemeteries    | • History      | • Obituaries      | • Vital Records |
| • Census        | • Institutions | • Other           | • Voter Lists   |
| • Church        | • Land         | • Passenger Lists | • Wills         |
| • Court Records | • Maps         | • School Records  |                 |
| • Deeds         | • Military     |                   |                 |

- Non-descriptive titles, misleading titles, or titles designed for their literary affect rather than their descriptive accuracy were often modified by the indexers. Hence, a title for a cemetery inscription simply called "Bones and Stones" will likely have been reworded to contain the name of the cemetery, and if the particular cemetery reading is incomplete, what portion of the cemetery was read. This does cause occasional frustration and confusion for researchers.

## Periodical Source Index

PERSI is the premier subject index for genealogy and local history periodicals, and is produced by the staff of The Genealogy Center of the Allen County Public Library. Using this valuable resource provides citations to readily-available periodical sources.

Click a button below to start searching for articles.



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## Requesting a Periodical Article

Finding an article of interest in the *Periodical Source Index (PERSI)* is exciting. The next step is to get access to that article(s). There are at least three ways to request an article of interest.

Article Title	Periodical	Year Published	Publisher
Cemetery records	Hoosier Genealogist Vol. 7, Issue 1 (Jan 1967) ACPL Call #: 977.2 ln2471h	1967	Indiana Historical Society 450 West Ohio Street Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

## Publisher

Quite often publishers are interested assisting those wanting copies of articles or issues. The publisher of the periodical is located under the "Publisher" heading in PERSI along with the publisher's last known address. You can also search the internet for the Publisher and Periodical title to locate an email or phone number to contact the publisher. Using this information along with the details from the PERSI entry, you can request a copy of the article directly from the publisher.

## Local library

To determine if a library nearby owns the periodical, search for the periodical title on WorldCat <<https://www.worldcat.org/>>. Select the title of interest from the results page. There may be more than one listed so try each of them.

The item record page has a description of the periodical followed by the "Find a copy in the library" section. Click on the (+) symbol next to the heading to open this section. If there is a (-) symbol, then the section is open.

Enter your zip code and click on the "Find libraries" button. A list of libraries who own the periodical appears based on the distance from your zip code. You can select the library and search the library's catalog to determine if it owns the specific volume, issue, or year found in the PERSI entry under the "Periodical" heading.

### **Genealogy Center at ACPL**

[Using current fee structure: \$7.50 (up to and including 6 articles) plus \$0.20 per page (not charged for periodical cover / title pages).]

To request articles from the Genealogy Center, email [Genealogy@ACPL.Info](mailto:Genealogy@ACPL.Info) with the information found under the "Article Title" and "Periodical" headings in PERSI. The cost for the articles is \$7.50 (up to and including 6 articles) plus \$0.20 per page. The articles and fee statement will be sent via email.

**Periodical Source Index— [www.GenealogyCenter.info/persi](http://www.GenealogyCenter.info/persi)**