

Glossary of Library Terms



northwestern
STATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

Reference Division
Watson Memorial Library
Northwestern State University
Natchitoches LA 71497

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Book – A written work that has been published by being printed on pages, which are bound together. Also called a monograph.

Circulation Desk – Located in the front lobby of the library, the circulation desk is where you check out library books, and materials your professors put on reserve. Remember, your Student ID is your library card.

Database – A database is an organised collection of information records that can be accessed electronically. In the Library this includes indexing and abstracting databases, citation databases or databases of fulltext journal articles.
<http://www.lib.latrobe.edu.au/libskills/main/webzglos.htm>.

Library Catalog – A listing of all books owned by Northwestern State University libraries. Includes information about the book, tells what the call number is, and whether the item is available for check-out.

Periodical or Serial – A magazine or other journal that is issued at regularly recurring intervals.

- Journal – Usually refers to a scholarly or academic periodical or serial. For example – Journal of Academic Librarianship
- Magazine – Usually refers to a general interest periodical or serial. For example – People Magazine
- Newspaper – Daily or weekly publication on folded sheets that includes news, articles, advertisements. For example – The Natchitoches Times.

Reference Desk – Located in the back of the first floor, the Reference Desk is where to come for help using library resources, finding material in the library, help refining your topic, and general library assistance.

Reserve Readings – Articles or books placed at the Circulation Desk by professors for students to read for class or as part of an assignment.

Search Term – The word or words that describe your search, which you use to find books or articles in the library catalog or a database. Remember to keep these simple and concise.

Writing Center Outpost – This branch of the Writing Center is open Monday – Thursday evenings from 5pm to 9pm. They can help with the mechanics of writing papers, doing works cited pages, etc.