

PERIODICALLY PUZZLED - SCRIPT

Jessica is sitting on the floor of the Periodicals Reading Room surrounded by a mess of magazines, scattered around her. Becky and Brittany approach, carrying a couple of library books.

Becky: Jessica!! What in the world are you doing *here*? You look terrible!

Jessica (tired, with frustration in her voice): *Thanks!!* I've been here for *hours*. I'm trying to find articles for my paper that's due on Friday.

Becky: Did you have to pull every magazine off the shelf?

Jessica: My bad, what was I supposed to do?

Brittany: What a mess!! Are you trying to find a particular article?

Jessica: No. I'm just looking through these issues to find two articles on immigration rights. And I'm not having any luck!

Brittany: Why don't you just get the articles online?

Jessica: You mean the Internet? You know me. That's the first place I tried. When I tried Google all I got were websites. Then I went to get some articles from TIME's website but they wanted to charge me for them!

Becky: You can get articles online free from one of the library's periodical databases. All you have to do is type in your topic and you'll get a list of articles that you can print.

Jessica (to Brittany): What's a periodical?

Brittany (aside): That's like...you know...a magazine or a newspaper.

Jessica: Oh! And you can get the articles off the computer? My professor said we had to use real magazines (holds up an issue of TIME)—like this.

Becky: Well, a periodical database like Academic Search Premier isn't the same as the Internet. The library pays for a subscription to it. It has real articles from Time and Newsweek and from scholarly journals as well—thousands of them.

Brittany: Yeah. But it has lots of articles—just for fun, too! I caught up on the latest issue of People...

Jessica: So, how do I do this?

Becky: You just click on the link from the library's homepage. Then just type in your search.

Jessica: And you get the whole article?

Brittany: Most of the time you do. Sometimes you only get the information about what magazine and what issue to look for. If it's not online, Marshall may have it in print or on microfilm...

Jessica: Microfilm???? Ouch!! I can't deal with that stuff!

Brittany: You don't have to! You just have to go to the Media Desk and ask them for help. I had to copy the first page of the newspaper from the day I was born. They were really helpful and friendly and I had it done in no time!

Becky: But anyway, there are tons of full-text articles you can print.

Jessica: But I've been here for hours already. I can't stand it another minute—even if I can print them off the computer. I'll bet it costs to print them, too!

Becky: (Rolls Eyes) Oh yeah, it's really expensive! It's a whole, ten cents a page (slowly and deliberately)! And you have to use points to pay. (GASP!)

Jessica: But what if I don't have enough?

Brittany: You can add points at the machine in the Copy Center on the first floor.

Jessica: That doesn't help me if I'm broke...

Becky: Well you could email the articles and print them at home. Or, why don't you just go back to your apartment and do the research from there?

Jessica: You mean I can do this *from home*??

Brittany: All you need is your username and password.

Jessica: What's that?

Becky: Well, your username is your MUID.

Brittany: And your password is your birthdate.

Becky: But the Reference Desk has an instruction sheet on how to do all this downstairs. And they even have handouts that show you how to cite your articles for your bibliography.

Brittany: You can even ask them to show you how to search.

Jessica: No way! I don't want to look stupid!

Brittany: Well, I felt that way too until I asked a question. The guy was real nice and even showed me where the books I needed were.

Jessica: Really?

Becky: Yeah. Come on. We're heading that way anyway. I have some books to check out at the Circulation Desk.

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