This handout is a guide to library resources in the J. Murrey Atkins Library at the University of North Carolina Charlotte, for sources of criticism for the study of 17th-century British author John Milton. The guide is intended to help readers find critical and biographical information on Milton. It explains important reference sources in the Atkins library reference collection and how to find additional information in books and periodicals. The guide is organized under the following topics: (1) general reference works; (2) books on John Milton and his work; (3) bibliographies; (4) poetry--sources for criticism; (5) periodical indexes; and (6) PASL (Periodicals and Serials List). (SR)
JOHN MILTON
A RESEARCH GUIDE

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TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES
INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)"
JOHN MILTON: SOURCES FOR CRITICISM

A RESEARCH GUIDE

Compiled by Judith Van Noate
Reference Librarian
Reference Unit, Atkins Library, UNC-Charlotte

1991

This guide is intended to help you find critical and biographical information on the 17th Century British author John Milton. It explains important reference sources in the Atkins library reference collection and how to find additional information in books and periodicals.

It is arranged as follows:

1. GENERAL REFERENCE WORKS
2. BOOKS on John Milton and his work
3. BIBLIOGRAPHIES
4. POETRY - sources for criticism
5. PERIODICAL INDEXES
6. P.A.S.L
Before you begin in depth research on Milton, it may be helpful to have a brief overview of his life and work. The following sources are excellent for background and introductory information on authors and literary topics.

Ref  The Cambridge Guide to English Literature
PR 85 Biographical—a good concise overview if you are having trouble with where to start.
C28 1983

Ref  The Oxford Companion to English Literature
PS 21 This a good source of biographical information in dictionary format. Gives an overview of the author's life and work. Especially useful if you are not sure where to start with a topic.
H3 1983
REFERENCE BOOKS
ON MILTON

Ref      Milton Criticism: A Subject Index
PR       3587.3
J6       "This work presents a detailed and relatively complete index to subjects referred to, or covered in, a carefully selected group of 150 books of criticism pertaining to the life and writings of John Milton."

This a very useful and time saving source for those doing in-depth research.

Here is the entry on the subject "divorce:" The numbers refer to the "List of Books indexed" on p.p. xi-xvi.

Divorce at Pleasure: William Prynne:
73, 147


Divorcers: 103, 113

Ref      A Milton Encyclopedia
PR       3580
MS       "This compilation attempts to bring together all of the important information and opinion concerning the life and works of John Milton." An important resource for Milton studies. Arranged alphabetically by subject; indexed in vol. 9. Published 1978 and 1984. 9 volumes. The library currently (12/90) owns only vol. 1 A-B, Vols 2-9 are "on order" and, it is hoped will be available for use during Spring semester 1991.
"A MILTON DICTIONARY, the only one of its comprehensive kind, is made up of three classes of entries. First, it is a dictionary of "hard" words in Milton's verse and prose, capitalized or uncapsulated, his allusions geographic and mythological, classical and Biblical, literary and historical, his characters, his correspondents and named friends and opponents, his vocabulary archaic, obsolete, or special, his puns and cruxes. Second, there is a descriptive entry for each of Milton's works, down to the smallest Latin or Greek epigram and including the Familiar Letters (dealt with by recipient). Third, there are some fifty entries covering Milton, his mother and father, his wives, his nephews, and his biographers and editors and leading critics—including English poets influenced by or commemorating him—from Aubrey and Dryden down to Tillyard and Hanford and Eliot.

The DICTIONARY is also an Index, for references are located by line number for the poems and by page number of the Columbia Edition for the prose works [Atkins Library owns the Columbia Edition--PR 3550 F31] (De Doctrina Christiana is by book and chapter number). To serve in this capacity, names are entered that the reader will be familiar with."

From the "Preface."

Note: the claim of being "the only one of its comprehensive kind" was superceded by the publication of A Milton Encyclopedia, published in 1978. However, A Milton Dictionary is still a useful source for brief definition and discussions of a wide variety of topics relating to Milton.
ADDITIONAL BIOGRAPHICAL AND CRITICAL SOURCES

Ref PN 86 L56

Literature Criticism 1400 to 1800

"...a comprehensive source of critical information...presenting significant passages from published criticism on authors who died between 1400 to 1800...[E]ach volume includes the best works of criticism from the fifteenth through the twentieth centuries."

"An author section consists of the following elements: author heading, biographical and critical introduction, list of principal works, excerpts of criticism (each followed by a bibliographical citation), illustrations, and an annotated bibliography of additional reading."

Milton is included in vol. 9.
The Chelsea House Library of Literary Criticism

A thirty-seven volume series designed to cover "the entire range of British and American literature." Entries include brief biographies and two longer sections of extracts and essays. Extracts are grouped into Personal, General, and Works categories and include material from "memoires, interview and biographies, short theoretical statements and reviews of individual works." The essay sections are reserved for more extensive, in-depth studies. Full citations are given for both extracts and essays. There is a list of references for "Additional Reading" at the end of each volume.

Milton is included in:

Ref  The Critical Perspective
PR     "The ten volumes of The Critical Perspective
C76    contain twentieth-century criticism of English
1985   language authors whose major works predate 1904.


Ref  Major Authors Editions
PR     Pre-twentieth-century criticism. There are five
85     volumes in this series, which covers Medieval
M33    through Victorian plus a "Biographical Supplement"
1985   and "Index."

"...The authors have selected [for inclusion] only the most widely-read British and American writers from the fourteenth to the nineteenth centuries." The series includes biographical information, extracts of criticism (with citations), essays, references for further study.

Milton is in Vol. 1, pp. 575-663.

Ref  The New Moulton's: Pre-Twentieth Century
PR     Criticism of British and American Literature
85     to 1904
N39    1985

There are eleven volumes in this series. Milton is discussed in vol. 4, Restoration--Early Georgian, pp. 1683-1750.
This is an introduction to the work of "Writers who have made a significant contribution to English literature." The scope is biographical and analytical. Entries contain a bibliography of the author's work in chronological order as well as a list of biographical and critical works.

The index in Vol. 8 refers to everywhere an author is mentioned. The long articles on authors are located in the volumes which list their names on the back. Entries are arranged chronologically by author's birthdate.

Here is the index entry for Milton.


Milton (Blake), III: 303-304, 307; V: xvi, 330

"Milton" (Macaulay), IV: 278, 279

Milton (Meredith), V: 234

Milton's Prosody (Bridges), VI: 83

"...a comprehensive overview of poets, their works, and the poetic genre in general." This is a good source for beginning your research. Biographical information and analysis of major poems. Arranged alphabetically by poet. The index to poets and poem titles is in Volume 8.
BOOKS

BOOKS ON INDIVIDUAL AUTHORS

Although proper names for people and places, etc. are not included in Library of Congress Subject Headings, they can be used as subjects in ALADDIN or the card catalog. Therefore, to find biographies, books of criticism or bibliographies concerning the works of a John Milton, simply type s/ (for a subject search of that author), and then enter the author's last name, first initial. At this point, scan the list of entries until you find the appropriate subheading (for example --bibliography, --criticism and interpretation, --biography)

Example:

s/milton.john

J. MURREY ATKINS LIBRARY- - - - VTLS-89 - - - - QUALIFYING SUBJECTS
1.  30 Milton, John. 1608-1674.
2.  2 Milton, John. 1608-1674 -- Aesthetics.
3.  4 Milton, John. 1608-1674 -- Allegory and symbolism.
5.  1 Milton, John. 1608-1674 -- Anniversaries. etc., 1908.
15. 2 Milton, John. 1608-1674 -- Characters -- Women.

Enter NS for next screen

Enter new command or line # of selection or HELP
MILTON BIBLIOGRAPHIES

If you are doing in-depth research on an author, the best place to begin your search maybe with a bibliography devoted to the work of that author. Bibliographies will frequently be divided up by the titles of poems, prose etc. and will direct you to criticism on a particular work. A disadvantage is that bibliographies may not be up to date; you will need to use additional sources if you need recent or current criticism.

WARNING: MANY OF THE ITEMS IN THESE BIBLIOGRAPHIES WILL REQUIRE THE USE OF INTERLIBRARY LOAN. DO YOUR RESEARCH AS EARLY IN THE SEMESTER AS POSSIBLE.

The library owns the following bibliographies on Milton:

Ref
Z
8578
S84
F55
1968
Contributions to a Milton Bibliography 1800-1930: Being a List of Addenda to Stevens's "Reference Guide to Milton"
The mostly annotated entries are arranged chronologically. The index refers to each item by author, title, or contents. Numbers in the index refer to page numbers. First published in 1931. See also Reference Guide to Milton described below.

Ref
Z
8578
K57
1989
The Essential Milton: an Annotated Bibliography of Major Modern Studies
This should be a major source for your research. Extensively annotated. The index is very useful for determining themes within works, works with particular themes, imagery, etc. The numbers in the index refer to entry rather than page number.

Ref
Z
8578
H82
John Milton: an Annotated Bibliography 1929-1968
This bibliography supplements Stevens's Reference Guide to Milton and Fletcher's Contributions to a Milton Bibliography. Most of the items are annotated. References to criticism on individual works are on pages 111-275. The index is to authors only, and is therefore, not particularly useful. For in depth research. Use other sources before using this one.
Ref        Milton
Z
8578        This short bibliography appears to be quite
H35       useful. Entries are arranged by topic or name
of work to which they refer. Published in 1961.
There are two additional copies of this in the
tower.

Ref        Reference Guide to Milton
Z
8578        From 1800 to the Present Day
S84
1967        The above mentioned Stevens bibliography.
Arranged by the works to which the items refer.
Not annotated; some entries have notes. The index
is to authors and will not be particulary useful.
The book was published in 1930, so "the present
day" would be about 1928.
The following bibliographies consist of lists of references to criticism in periodical articles, books and essays. They are not all arranged in the same way. Some are annotated, some are not.

**PROSE**

Ref  |  *English Prose to 1880*  
---|---
Z    | Arranged by type of literature--religious, historical, polemical, etc. Use the index to find entries on Milton. The numbers refer to individual entries rather than to pages.

**POETRY**

The following is a selective list of checklists and collective bibliographies of poetry criticism. Use these to find sources of criticism on single major poems and on the poet’s work in general. Remember, these bibliographies and checklists are limited by their date of publication. You will need to go to journal indexes for more recent references.

The titles listed here are arranged alphabetically by poet, and then, by title of the poem.

Ref  |  *American and British Poetry, A Guide to the Criticism, 1925-1978*  
---|---
Z    | One of the best places to start your search.  
1231 | Comprehensive. Includes criticism on poems of 1984  
P7    | 1000 lines or less. Sources include books and journal articles. Full citations are in "Sources," pp. 475-486. Arranged alphabetically by poet.
An Index to Criticisms of British
and American Poetry

"A ready-reference source for criticisms of poems by British and American poets." Covers "from the earliest period to the twentieth century." Entries are to citations in collections of criticism and in scholarly periodicals.

Part 1 lists poets (arranged alphabetically), poem titles, and critic citations. Citations for criticism give the critic's name, page and entry number in brackets. Look up the critic's name in Part 2 to find the complete citation. A "List of Periodical Abbreviations" is on page X. There is an index to poem titles on pages 271-307.

The citations are to articles and essays published between 1960 and 1970. Complicated to use, but you might find what you need here. References to Milton are on pp. 88-93.

English Poetry

Contains a bibliographic essay on Milton (pp. 76-95, which discusses texts, critical studies and commentary, bibliographies and letters, bibliographies. Complete citations are given for each work discussed.

Poetry Explication: A Checklist of Interpretation
Since 1925 of British and American Poems
Past and Present

A source for criticism on major poems of British and American authors. References are primarily to journal articles. Arranged alphabetically by poet and poem title. An important source. Up to date through 1978.
Most journals are indexed in one or more periodical indexes. Indexes range from the very broad in scope to those more specialized by discipline. Indexes are generally arranged alphabetically by subject; relevant citations follow each heading. The citation includes:

- Author(s) of journal article
- Title of journal article
- Journal title (usually abbreviated--a list of abbreviations is located in the front of the index volume)
- Volume number, and if available, issue number of the journal
- Pages on which the article appears
- Date of the journal

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<th>title of article</th>
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This is useful for in-depth research. It indexes journals, bulletins, newsletters, etc. Look in the back under the index labeled: "Authors and Subject Treated."

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Index</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5732.</td>
<td>IDE, RICHARD S. Five versions of Milton at Horton. Review (7) 1985, 89-111 (review-article).</td>
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<tr>
<td>5733.</td>
<td>JACOBS, HOWARD. Milton's Harapha. ANQ (24:3/6) 70-1.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5734.</td>
<td>JAMESON, FREDRIC. Religion and ideology: a political reading of Paradise Lost. In (pp. 35-56) 29.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5737.</td>
<td>KELLER, EVE. Tetragrammatic numbers: gematria and the line total of the 1674 Paradise Lost. MQ (20:11) 23-5.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5739.</td>
<td>KERRIGAN, WILLIAM. The irrational coherence of Samson Agonistes. MStud (22) 217-32.</td>
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<td>5741.</td>
<td>——— BRADEN, GORDON. Milton's coy Eve: Paradise Lost and Renaissance love poetry. ELH (53:1) 27-51.</td>
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<td>5744.</td>
<td>KNAELE, DOUGLAS. Milton, Wordsworth, and the 'joint labourers' of The Prelude. ESCan (12:1) 37-54.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5745.</td>
<td>KNOESPEL, KENNETH J. The limits of allegory: textual expansion of Narcissus in Paradise Lost. MStud (22) 79-99.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>5750.</td>
<td>LIEB, MICHAEL. 'Hate in heav'n': Milton and the odium dei. ELH (53:3) 519-39.</td>
<td></td>
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<td>5751.</td>
<td>LOCHEM, DANIEL T. 'If there be aught of presage': Milton's Samson as riddler and prophet. MStud (22) 195-216.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>5752.</td>
<td>LUNTON, ANDREA THOMASING JOY. Milton's hermeneutics: an</td>
<td></td>
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Essay and General Literature Index

This an important bibliographical index to collections of essays in books. The emphasis is on the humanities and the social sciences. Material under a person (author, etc.) is arranged as follows: 1. Author's works; 2. Works about the author (biographical or overall discussions of his/her work); 3. Criticism. Semiannual with a permanent cumulation every five years.

Milton, John, 1608-1674—About individual works—Continued

Paradise regained
Haskin, D. Milton's portrait of Mary as a bearer of the word. (In Milton and the idea of woman; ed. by J. M. Walker p169-84)
Kerrigan, W. The riddle of Paradise regained. (In Poetic prophecy in Western literature; ed. by J. Wojcik and R.-J. Frontain p64-80)

Samson Agonistes
Schleiner, L. Milton, G. B. Doni, and Italian dramatic song. (In Schleiner, L. The living lyre in English verse p102-57)
Ulreich, J. C., Jr. "Incident to all our sex"; the tragedy of Dalila. (In Milton and the idea of woman; ed. by J. M. Walker p185-210)

Bibliography
Burnett, A. Milton. (In The Year's work in English studies v66 p285-99)
Burnett, A. Milton. (In The Year's work in English studies v67 p286-96)
Campbell, G. Milton. (In The Year's work in English studies v64 p251-70)
Campbell, G. Milton. (In The Year's work in English studies v65 p297-316)
Patrides, C. A. Milton. (In The Year's work in English studies v63 p214-223)

Characters
Women

Criticism and interpretation

Influence
Cumulative index to English-language periodicals. Author and subject entries are in one alphabet. It includes language and literature subjects as well as other humanities areas.

Milton, John, 1608-1674


‘Eve’d from light’: the darkened moral consciousness of Milton’s hero of faith. D. N. C. Wood. bibl Univ Tor Q 58:244-62 Wint ’88/’89

A German critique of Milton’s Apologia in 1647. L. Miller. Notes Queries 36:29-30 Mr ’89


The lacuna in Milton’s On the death of a fair infant. R. J. C. Watt. Notes Queries 36:30-1 Mr ’89

Lycidas and the dolphins. J. M. Evans. Notes Queries 25:15-17 F ’78; Discussion. 35:160 Je ’89


Milton’s Paradise lost. T. C. Miller. Explicator 47:10-13 Spr ’89

Milton’s Paradise lost and the country estate: poem. D. M. Rosenberg. Ch 18:123-34 Wint ’89

A note on possible acrostics in Paradise lost. C. W. R. D. Moseley. Notes Queries 35:162-3 Je ’89


Spectacle and evidence in Samson Agonistes. S. E. Fish. Cnt Inq 15:556-86 Spr ’89

“Sung and proverb’d for a fool”: Samson as fool and trickster. A. K. Nardo. bibl Mosaic (Winnipeg, Man.) 22:1-16 Wint ’89

Influence

Horace and Milton in Mac Flecknoe. J. Ogden. Notes Queries 36:50 Mr ’89

Keats’s Triumphal march of Bacchus and Milton’s Mask. C. Daniel. Engl Lang Notes 26:50-4 Mr ’89

Pope, Dryden, Milton, and the poets’ secret. F. M. Keener. ELH 56:81-98 Spr ’89

Sources

A biblical source for Paradise lost IX:813-15. J. B. Lethbridge. Notes Queries 36:32 Mr ’89

Milton’s hell-hounds. R. W. F. Martin. Notes Queries 36:31-2 Mr ’89
This is a major index to books and articles published on modern languages, literature, folklore, and linguistics. Part 1 is arranged by country or type of literature and then by period and author. It is arranged in a series of volumes. Volume I contains citations to British and American literature; Volume II covers Asian and other non-English language authors.

Poetry/Paradise Lost


The MLA since 1/81 to the present is also available on CD-ROM. See the next page for details on how to use this.
MLA
Part 2 is arranged in alphabetical order by subject and serves as an index to part 1. In the examples below, the Roman numeral refers to the volume of Part I and the rest of the number to the specific entry.

Part 2 indicates the CLASSIFIED section in PART 1 for a given author and also lists entries that will not be found directly under the author’s name. Full citations are in Part 1.

MILTON, JOHN (1608-1674)
See also classified section: I:1949 ff.
English literature. Drama. 1600-1699.
Jonson, Ben. Treatment of holidays; relationship to politics compared to Herrick, Robert: Hesperides; MILTON, JOHN: Comus; Marvell, Andrew. I:1870.
English literature. Illustration. 1700-1799.
Blake, William. For MILTON, JOHN: Comus; relationship to Puritanism. I:2228.
Shelley, Mary Wollstonecraft. Frankenstein. Treatment of pride of Frankenstein, Victor (character); relationship to fall of man in MILTON, JOHN: Paradise Lost. I:3548.

NOTE: Prior to 1981 MLA was one volume index and arranged somewhat like Part 1 is now. There was no subject index. You need to know country or language and century appropriate to the author, then look alphabetically by his or her name.
MLA on CD-ROM

The easiest way for you to search for recent journal articles on the works of Milton will be to use the computerized version of MLA International Bibliography. The volumes since 1981 to within a few months of the present are available in CD-ROM format (compact disk, read only memory). This version of the MLA contains a year or so more information than the printed index. You may search by author, title of work, and by a keyword. Two keywords, such as an author's last name and a theme or an identifying word from a title or theory, may be combined using "boolean" commands. You will not need to search on the word "criticism" because just about everything in the index refers to criticism.

To use boolean commands you need to be in the Wilson line searching system or mode. There is a handout near the machines which explains how to use the various searching strategies. You will need to make an appointment in advance to use MLA on CD-ROM. Stop by or call the reference desk (547-2241). If you have problems, ask for Judith Van Noate, the Humanities Librarian.

Notes and WORD OF WARNING:

1. Both the printed and the computerized versions of the MLA International Bibliography contain references to books and dissertations as well as articles. Atkins Library does not have any of the dissertations. These will be listed as DAI or Dissertations Abstracts International in the index. The library does have the abstracts. Books are books of essays. Check for them in ALADDIN by title of book or by editors name. Book references are "tagged" ANALYTIC. Also, there are many foreign language articles in the index. There is no way to exclude these when searching the CD. If we do not have the source you need, you may try to get it via Interlibrary Loan (this takes 2 to 4 weeks).

2. Finally, do not depend on either version of the MLA for all of your research. In many cases there will be better and easier sources of information to locate in books and reference books. The MLA is important for recent information.
Abstracts of English Studies

v. 1-21 1958-78 (22 1978-79) 23- 1979-

This is a quarterly index to articles (with short abstracts) dealing with American and English literature.

You find the author’s name in a cumulated "Index C" in the back of each volume. Periodical abbreviations are explained in "Index A."

John Milton


86-842. Curran, Stuart. PARADISE REGAINED: Implications of Epw. MiltonS, 17, 1983, 209-24. Even though the deeds of martial heroism are primarily associated with Satan, they are present in P.L. In contrast, Paradise Regained, which is "squarely within the epic mode," never ceases to undercut and expose Satan’s adherence to traditional heroism. Essentially the poem is a psychomachia of temptations in Jesus’s mind. Although the setting of Paradise Regained can best be interpreted as it echoes the Aeneid and its "focus and movement” as it corresponds to the Odyssey, Paradise Regained seems deliberately shorn of the structures one expects in an epic.

86-843. Fish, Stanley. Things and Actions Indifferent: The Temptation of Plot in PARADISE REGAINED. MiltonS, 17, 1983, 163-85. As Michael points out in P.L., XII, 386-95, the only defeat Satan can suffer is for each man to eradicate evil impulses. In Paradise Regained Satan is defeated only by having the Son refuse to recognize the temptations as real. As a consequence, all the motives (values, things) which make narrative sequences (plots) meaningful are rejected. The three temptations are in no sense hierarchical, but rather related so that rejecting one creates "the risk of courting another." The poem, therefore, is a "working out of the doctrine" that all things are indifferently equal, varying only as they stimulate eternally recurring temptations for each individual.

86-844. Hardison, O. B., Jr. In Medias Res in PARADISE LOST. MiltonS, 17, 1983, 27-41. Contrary to Renaissance expectations of the epic, the opening books of P.L. are not subordinate to the dramatic or central plot, nor does the poem begin in medias res. Earlier, Milton considered starting the epic with elements now found in Books III and IV. His decision to introduce it with the demonic conclave, although partly consequent on his shift from dramatic to epic form, was primarily due to the need to give Satan enough power to threaten God’s supremacy. As a result, many readers now mistakenly suppose that Satan is the hero of the epic.

86-845. Ide, Richard S. On the Uses of Elizabethan Drama. The Revolution of Epw in PARADISE LOST. MiltonS, 17, 1983, 121-40. Milton shares a scandalously moral theory of tragedy, incorporating a revenger willing to leave retribution to God and a villain the paradigm of damned sinners. The ensuing plot, however, is a subversion of the epic genre in several ways, especially the rejection of martial virtues. In Milton’s earlier versions of P.L., the tragicomic plot of recovery from a fall, with supernatural help, was basic. The final additions of Books XI and XII further emphasize the idea of a fortunate fall.
P.A.S.L. (Periodicals and Serials List)

P.A.S.L. is a computer printout listing all periodicals and
serials owned by Atkins Library. Look here to see if the
library has the periodical you need.

There are two versions of P.A.S.L. The large blue covered
P.A.S.L. was last printed in the spring of 1990/ It will never
be updated. It is easier to understand than the new green
covered version and is also more complete. The green version
will be updated and has titles and cataloging information for
titles which have been recently added to the library's
collection. Start with the blue one.

Periodicals are listed alphabetically by title or by issuing
organization. Each entry gives information on the volumes and
years of a journal owned by the library, the format in which it
appears, and the call number. P.A.S.L. copies are located on
the first floor near the indexes and also on the 2nd in the
periodicals collection area.

Periodicals are also listed in ALADDIN, but it is quite
complicated to use. If you can't find your title in any of
these three sources--Atkins Library does not own it.

Example:

-EXPLICATI0N-

1-1942-

- indicates that we have been receiving this periodical continuously since this date

year

format

CURR/BD PER
PR1.E9

call number

volunme

number

CURR: CURRENT year issues of the periodical

BD PER: Older issues which are in BOUND PERIODICAL format

Current and bound periodicals are shelved together
by their call numbers on the 2nd floor of Old Atkins
(behind where the reserve desk used to be). See the
library map--available at the reference desk.

MIC: MICROFICHE or MICROFILM volumes of a periodical.
These are arranged by call number in metal cabinets
in the periodicals collection area on the second
floor (see map).