PERSI

PERSI (PERiodical Source Index) is an index to articles in genealogical periodicals (magazines and journals.)

PERSI does not index every name in an article, but concentrates on major subjects: surnames, places, events. For example, a transcription of "marriage records from Green County, Wisconsin" would be indexed for Green County, Wisconsin, but not for the individual names of the brides and grooms. An article about the Broadhurst family, with multiple lines of descendants with different surnames, would only be indexed for Broadhurst.

To access PERSI, open FindMyPast. During the pandemic FindMyPast is accessible to RVGS members from the website: rvgslibrary.org

At FindMyPast look for "Quick links" on the left. Choose : Newspapers and periodicals
Look for "Choose from our collection" on the left. Choose : PERiodical Source Index.

Across the top : **Who, Where, What else**? then the big **SEARCH** button.

Who. Type in the name you seek. There are no wild cards permitted, so you'll need to search each spelling variation separately. Try the same name in the **What else?** field. (Be sure to click "**Clear search**" between these two searches as the system tends to remember the previous search.) It's a mystery why "Who" and "What else?" give different results.

Example : **Who "**Weber " gives 429 results. **What else "**Weber" gives 1,540 results.
If you add Wisconsin, USA in the **Where** field, the answer is 7.

You can do the same search in the "**Narrow your search results**" list at the left. Select Weber in the Last names filter and Wisconsin in the State filter. Result? 1! Try both sets of search fields, separately.

If you want to search all the spellings of your name at once, open Last Name filters. Type in the name you seek and see if it's on the list. Then try all other possibilities and highlight them as well (they will appear along the bottom on the search screen.) Click Search. If the list is too long, try filtering by State. Be warned, however. If the indexer didn't think the location was important to the article, the location won't show up in the filtered list. For example : the article "David Mccray, Mo; Topeka, KS" does not show up if you search for Mccray (name) and Kansas (state).

Look through the subjects listed in the filtered lists and associate the subject with a location by state, county or city. Try a combination of a location from the filtered list and a keyword in **What else?**

Look at the "Results" list. On the right you'll find one or two icons. The icon of a page with a bent corner is a full citation for the noted article. Occasionally there is an icon with a mountain and moon. You are in luck: click on the icon to open a scanned copy of the specific issue of the periodical with your article.

Navigating the scanned image: The Results list only gives volume and year of the cited publication. If you are lucky, the scanned image includes a Contents page that will give you the page number of the article you seek.   Make a note of the page number. If the article is close to the front of the publication, you can just leaf through using the navigation marks to the right. However, if you need to skip 20 pages or more, **here's the magic hint:**

Look at the url (website address) at the top of the page.   For example, this is the address for the Contents page of a DAR magazine. The article I want is on page 25:

https://search.findmypast.com/record?id=US%2FPERSI%2F200019%2F0001**&**parentid=PERSI%2FDARM%2F200019%2F201479

Find the **&** in the address. The number preceeding the **&** is the **image** number of the current page. Change 0001 to 0025 and hit ENTER. Now you are closer to the page you seek.   You may have to flip a few pages forward or back to find the exact page you want, because there may be images at the beginning of the periodical that were not numbered pages.

If the article you want has not been scanned by FindMyPast, here are some options for **Getting the article you seek:**

Check to see if the Jackson County Genealogy Library has the periodical you seek by searching the library catalog: https://opac.libraryworld.com/opac/standard.php Type the title of the publication in the search box. Ignore the boxes "All words" and "Sort". (You can change "All words" to "Title" to narrow your search if you get too many hits.") The search box will take a title of any length. If we have the periodical title, look to see if we have the volume you seek. That information is under NOTES and usually lists the volumes we have, but may say "Holdings" or "Library has."

No? Try "Worldcat" (https://www.worldcat.org/) to see who has the title you seek. Put the title in the search screen, find it in the resulting list and select it. You'll get a full record of the title. Scroll down to "Find a copy in the library", add your zip code in "Enter your location" and get a list of the closest library in the worldcat network that holds the title you seek. (All libraries are not members of worldcat. JCGL is not a member of worldcat.)

Too far away? Enter the title in a Google search to see what happens.

No? Try Digital Public Library of America. (https://dp.la/). You might find that what you seek has been digitized and is available online.

No? Look for the website of the publisher of the journal. They might have their publications online. Or, they might be happy to sell you a copy of their newsletter for a nominal cost. Or they might be happy to make a photocopy of the article you seek.

No? You can order a copy of the article from the Allentown Public Library. Click on "How do I get copies of the full articles" on the front page of the PERSI site.