What is a Scholarly Journal?

Your instructor has asked you to find a scholarly, professional, academic, peer-reviewed*, or refereed* journal as opposed to a popular magazine. There is no clear-cut definition, but here are some clues to help you distinguish between them.

	Scholarly Journals	Popular Magazines
Written for	• Professors & scholars	• General public
Written by	• Scholars, researchers, academics	• Journalists, staff writers, freelance writers
Appearance	• Serious & sober with few colors • Advertisements and photographs rare	• Glossy with advertisements • Many photographs
Articles	• Are signed ;often include author's credentials • Are written in scholarly & specialized language of discipline • Give more detailed discussion of an event • Lengthy • Contain footnotes and bibliographies • Contain charts & graphs	• Are not always signed by author • Are written in relatively simple language\ • Give first reports of an event • Short
Values & uses	• Reports on original research; in-depth analysis of topics; statistical information; academic book reviews	• Current events and news; hot topics; brief, factual information; interviews; entertainment
Examples	• *Advances in Nursing Science* • *Journal of Abnormal Psychology* • *JOGNN*	• *Time* • *Ebony* • *National Geographic*

***Peer-reviewed/Refereed** - articles are published only after receiving approval by an editorial board of experts (the author's "peers"). This means that a subject expert must review and correct the article before the journal will publish it. Consequently, peer-reviewed journal articles are typically considered higher quality than non-peer-reviewed articles (adapted from Virginia Commonwealth University Libraries).

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