

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	<i>Advances in Nursing Science</i> <i>Journal of Abnormal Psychology</i> <i>JOGNN</i>	<i>Time</i> <i>Ebony</i> <i>National Geographic</i>

***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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