



## What Is A Scholarly Journal?

You will often be asked to complete an assignment using **scholarly articles**.

This type of periodical article is generally found in a **scholarly journal** containing articles written by and for professionals or scholars such as historians, scientists, and psychologists. These publications contain:

- articles about recent research in a particular field of study
- articles that summarize the current state of knowledge on a topic within the field of study.

**Scholarly journals** are widely regarded as a reliable source of information on a topic. Before an article is accepted for publication in a scholarly journal it is evaluated both by an editorial board and by experts in the field of study who are not part of the editorial staff. This process of evaluation is called a **peer review** or **referee process**.

Other terms used to refer to **scholarly journals** include:

- **journal**
- **refereed journal**
- **peer-reviewed journal**
- **academic journal**
- **research journal**
- **juried publication**

Periodical articles from magazines or newspapers will provide some basic information on a topic but will usually lack the depth and authority of **scholarly journal articles**.

### Characteristics of scholarly journals:

- authors of articles are authorities in their fields.
- most articles are reports on scholarly research
- articles use jargon of the discipline or technical language
- articles have little or no advertising
- illustrations are usually charts and graphs.
- articles are usually long (more than 5 pages) with footnotes, endnotes and lists of references (bibliographies) citing the authors' sources
- journals are often published by professional organizations (such as the American Psychological Association)

### Contact a Librarian

# Types of Periodicals

	Scholarly, Academic or Research Journals	Professional, Trade & Industry Journals	Commentary & Opinion Journals	Newspapers	Popular Magazines
<b>Examples</b>	<i>New England Journal of Medicine, Sociological Review</i>	<i>Automotive News, Restaurants &amp; Institutions, RN</i>	<i>Mother Jones, National Review, Salon</i>	<i>New York Times, Seattle Times, Wall Street Journal, Washington Post</i>	<i>Good Housekeeping, People, Time, U.S. News &amp; World Report</i>
<b>Value &amp; Uses</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reports of original research, theoretical, experimental or applied</li> <li>• In-depth analysis of topics</li> <li>• Lengthy articles</li> <li>• Substantial book reviews</li> <li>• Many are refereed/peer reviewed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current trends, news, &amp; events in a particular field</li> <li>• Product, company, &amp; biographical information</li> <li>• Statistics, including forecasts</li> <li>• Some book reviews</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commentary on political &amp; social issues</li> <li>• Often source of specific political viewpoint, e.g., conservative, liberal, or specific interest group</li> <li>• Speeches &amp; interviews</li> <li>• Often substantial book reviews</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current information</li> <li>• News stories</li> <li>• Local &amp; regional focus</li> <li>• Analysis &amp; opinion on current events</li> <li>• Speeches (excerpts, usually)</li> <li>• Some book reviews</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current events &amp; news</li> <li>• Primary source for popular culture</li> <li>• Short articles</li> <li>• Interviews</li> <li>• Some book reviews</li> </ul>
<b>Language</b>	College-educated; uses the technical vocabulary of the discipline	Written for practitioners; uses jargon of the field	Written for a general, educated audience	Written for a general, educated audience	Non-technical, often simple language
<b>Authors</b>	Researchers, academics, scholars	Practitioners or journalists with subject expertise	Often display the greatest variety of authors, some writers, and some specialists,	Journalists	Journalists
<b>Sources</b>	Footnotes & bibliographies; documentation often very extensive	Sources often cited, but full documentation is not always provided	Highly variable; sources often cited but full documentation is not always provided	Sources are rarely cited in full	Original sources can be obscure
<b>Graphics</b>	Graphs, charts, & tables; ads are very rare	Charts, tables, illustrations; ads related to the profession or industry	Varies a lot; some have graphics, color and ads	Pictures & charts; some ads	Glitzy, many graphics and pictures; lots of color ads