



# Scholarly or General?

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## Scholarly Journals

Illustrations, if any, are graphs and charts, with few glossy color pictures.  
Articles are lengthy and list their sources in the form of footnotes or endnotes.  
Articles are written by someone who has conducted research in the field and is usually affiliated with a university or research center.  
The language of scholarly journals is that of the discipline covered. It assumes some scholarly background on the part of the reader.  
The main purpose of a scholarly journal is to report on original research or experimentation.  
Many scholarly journals, though by no means all, are published by a specific professional organization.  
Few advertisements (if any).  
Some, but not all, scholarly journals will be peer-reviewed. Peer-reviewed scholarly journals usually list the editorial board--peers who review articles submitted--on the inside front cover of the journal.

EXAMPLES:        Sociological Inquiry, Social Problems,  
                         American Sociological Review

## Trade Journals

Articles frequently focus on how to do a job better.  
Articles usually do not reflect original research.  
Trade journals often publish job listings.  
Articles may not be footnoted or have few footnotes.  
Often are published by a scholarly professional association.  
Usually contain news or information of interest to people in that profession.  
Advertisements aimed at people in that profession.

EXAMPLES:        Corrections Today, Social Work Today

*(Over, please)*

## Substantive News or General Interest Periodicals

Quite attractive in appearance; some may be in newspaper format.

Articles are often heavily illustrated, generally with photographs.

Sometimes cite sources though more often do not.

Articles are written by an editorial staff member, scholar or freelance writer.

The language is geared to any educated audience. There is no specialty assumed.

Main purpose is to provide information in a general manner.

Published by commercial enterprises/individuals, although a few are published from specific professional organizations.

EXAMPLES:        Newsweek, Time

## Popular Magazines

Are often somewhat slick and attractive and contain lots of graphics.

Rarely, if ever, cite sources.

Information is often second or third hand; the original source often obscure.

Articles are written by staff members or freelance writers.

Articles are usually very short.

Simple language is used; they are designed to meet a minimal education level.

There is generally little depth to the content of these articles.

The main purpose is to entertain the reader.

Advertisements are aimed at the general public.

Available for public purchase (in stores, newsstands, etc.).

EXAMPLES:        Readers' Digest, Parent's Magazine, People Weekly, Family Circle.

## How Do I Know it's Peer-Reviewed?

A peer-reviewed journal's articles are reviewed by experts who are not part of the editorial staff. To find peer-reviewed journals:

Search for your journal title at <http://roytennant.com/proto/peer/>

If it's listed in this database, it's peer-reviewed.

*Ulrich's Periodicals Directory* found in REF Z6941 .U56 2002 will also tell you if a journal is peer-reviewed.

To find peer-reviewed journal articles:

Most EBSCO databases will allow you to limit your searches (under limit or advanced search) to peer-reviewed journals.