

WHAT IS A SCHOLARLY JOURNAL?

Instructors often expect that information cited from periodicals come from scholarly (also known as academic or peer-reviewed) journals, especially in upper-division courses and graduate work. It's not always easy to tell when a journal is scholarly, so we've listed some of the basic characteristics and compared them to popular magazines and trade journals.

Scholarly journals present original research and always cite their sources. Articles in these journals are "refereed" or "peer-reviewed," meaning the research was approved by a committee of scholars in that discipline before being published. They usually have charts and graphs to show the research, very little color, and few if any advertisements.



SCHOLARLY JOURNALS



**POPULAR
MAGAZINES**

Intended Audience	Scholars and students in the field	General audience, lay persons
Authors	Experts or scholars in the field reporting on their original research	Staff writers or editorialists
Appearance	Plain cover (usually), charts, tables, graphs, some photographs, few ads	Glossy, colorful cover, many ads for consumer products, illustrations, photos
Refereed (Peer Reviewed)	Yes	No
Article Length	Longer articles, providing in-depth analysis of topics	Shorter articles providing broader overviews of topics
References	Yes- A bibliography and/or footnotes are provided	No, though names of reports or references may be mentioned in the text

It is not always obvious if a journal is scholarly or popular. The EBSCOhost databases allow you to limit your search by clicking the **Scholarly (Peer Reviewed) Journals** box, and there is an icon next to each citation labeling it **Academic Journal** or **Periodical** (their word for Popular). Please contact us at reference@marylhurst.edu or 503-534-7040 if you have any questions.