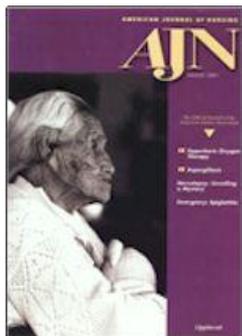


Scholarly Journals vs. Popular Magazines

Instructors often make assignments that require the use of articles from scholarly or professional trade journals. The terms peer-reviewed, refereed, academic, or research are also used. It is often difficult, especially when using online databases or the Internet, to recognize and decide what an appropriate article is. This handout provides general guidance in recognizing the difference between scholarly journal articles and popular magazine articles.

CHARACTERISTICS OF SCHOLARLY JOURNALS

- Articles are usually lengthy.
- Articles usually have cited references at the end.
- Usually illustrated by graphs, charts, or diagrams.
- Written and signed by authorities in the field.
- Purpose - Report on original research or experimentation.
- Usually contain an abstract, problem statement, and methodology.
- Use vocabulary requiring some knowledge of the subject. Geared towards scholars, researchers, or professionals.
- Often published by a professional organization or university.
- Usually published on a monthly or quarterly basis.
- Reviewed by panel or board.
- Contain few advertisements.



EXAMPLES of **scholarly journals** are: *Psychological Reports, Journal of Marriage and the Family, American Journal of Nursing, Studies in Twentieth Century Literature, American Historical Review, Nature, New England Journal of Medicine*



EXAMPLES of **popular magazines** are: *Time, Psychology Today, Autoglass, Atlantic, People Weekly, Science News, New Leader, Glamour, New Yorker, Forbes, American Heritage, Natural History*

CHARACTERISTICS OF POPULAR MAGAZINES

- Articles are usually short.
- Articles seldom have cited references at the end.
- Frequently illustrated with glossy or color photographs.
- Usually written by staff or freelance writers. Many times unsigned.
- Purpose - entertainment and information.
- Contain no abstract, problem statement, or methodology.
- Use simpler vocabulary. Written for the general public.
- Published by for-profit companies.
- Usually published on a weekly or monthly basis.
- Not peer-reviewed.
- Contain many advertisements.



Online Journal & Magazine Articles from Research Databases:

In addition to print journals and magazines, Reynolds Library provides access to millions of online articles available through our **databases** on the library's web site at <http://library.reynolds.edu>

EBSCOhost Databases:

To search for scholarly articles only, checkmark the box next to **Scholarly (Peer Reviewed) Journals** from the *Limit/Refine your results* menu. To view journal articles only or magazine articles only, from the results list, click on **Academic Journals** or **Magazines** from the *Source Types* menu on the left.

JSTOR and Project Muse Databases:

Some databases, such as *JSTOR* and *Project Muse*, provide access to scholarly journal articles only.