

How To Distinguish Scholarly Journals From Other Periodicals or Magazines

	Scholarly Journals	Popular, News, or General Interest Magazines
Author(s)	Researcher, scholar, professional, or expert in the field	Journalists, staff writers, editors, freelance writers
Intended Audience	Researchers, scholars, professors, college students, or anyone with specialized knowledge of the field	General populace; various age and education levels
Reviewer(s)	Scholars, professionals, or experts in the field	Editor or other magazine staff member; not reviewed by scholars
Purpose	To report on original research or experimentation	To inform, persuade, sell products, or entertain
Language	Use terminology or jargon peculiar to the field or discipline	Everyday, easy-to-read language
Content	Articles tend to be lengthy and include a theory or hypothesis; a summary or abstract; review of the literature pertaining to the article topic; the methodology employed by the researcher(s); results of research; a conclusion; and a bibliography. Author often includes his/her credentials.	Articles tend to be short and contain little depth to the content; can be interviews, report of current events, opinions, or general subject matter.
References/ Resources	Always cite sources in a bibliography and/or footnotes	Seldom, if ever, cite sources
Illustrations	If any, usually charts and/or graphs; minimal use of photographs or color	Numerous color photographs, usually eye-catching
Advertisements	Rare; if any, advertisements pertain to academia or the professional aspect of the field	Numerous advertisements spread throughout the publication
Publisher	Often, but not always, published by a specific professional organization	Generally published by commercial enterprises or individuals
Examples	<i>The American Historical Review, JAMA: The Journal of the American Medical Association, Review of Information Science (RIS)</i>	<i>Newsweek, U.S. News & World Report, People, Good Housekeeping, Rolling Stone, Readers Digest, Cosmopolitan, Successful Farming, PC Magazine</i>