### Distinguishing Scholarly from Non-Scholarly Publications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Popular Magazines</th>
<th>Professional / Trade Publications</th>
<th>Scholarly Journals</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>These are the magazines you find at the supermarket. You read them primarily for entertainment, news updates, or to appeal to your special interests. They are the type of periodicals most often found in public libraries.</td>
<td>These are the magazines and newsletters put out by professional organizations or to appeal to persons in specific occupations. They are often found in professional offices, larger public libraries, and academic libraries.</td>
<td>These journals are primarily put out by professional organizations with an emphasis to advance the state of knowledge in a particular field. They are primarily found in university and research libraries.</td>
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<td>These magazines typically are colorful, have shorter articles (usually with no references), and receive substantial revenue from advertising.</td>
<td>Articles in these periodicals are written by professionals in the field to address news, practical applications, and specific information needs.</td>
<td>Articles in these journals are written by professionals in the field, cover theory and research, and include references.</td>
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Some examples include:
- Cosmopolitan
- Psychology Today
- Sports Illustrated
- Time

Some examples include:
- Advertising Age
- Corrections Today
- Instructor
- NASW News

Some examples include:
- American Journal of Psychiatry
- Nursing
- Social Work

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**The Periodical Continuum:**  
Range / Degree of Scholarship

Popular

Tabloids
- National Enquirer
- Star
- The Globe

Magazines / Newspapers
- Cosmopolitan
- People Magazine
- Glamour

Trade / Professional Publications
- Time
- Newsweek
- New York Times
- Psychology Today

Peer-Reviewed Journals
- New England Journal of Medicine
- Journal of Social Issues
- Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry

Scholarly

Wayne College Library
Determining if an article is scholarly:

- **Length:** The article is usually several pages long, and can, at times, be as long as 20 to 30 pages.
- **Author:** There is always an author or group of authors listed. The author(s) usually have credentials or affiliations listed.
- **Audience:** The intended audience is other experts, researchers, and students in the field.
- **Refereed:** Articles may be “refereed,” or reviewed by peers prior to being accepted for publication.
- **Illustrations:** The article may include maps, tables, and graphs that support the text. Colorful photographs are rarely used.
- **References:** The article always includes citations to research discussed in the article in the form of footnotes, endnotes, or bibliographies.
- **Language:** Look for vocabulary that would be used in the author’s field or discipline.
- **Format:** The article follows a standardized format (APA, MLA, etc.).
- **Title:** Keep in mind that not all scholarly journals have “Journal” in the title (although many do). Also, not every source that has “Journal” in the title is actually scholarly. (Example: Ladies Home Journal)