

What are SCHOLARLY journal articles?

Different types of publications have different purposes and are intended for different types of audiences. Before using an article in a research paper you should use the following list of criteria to determine if the article is **Scholarly** research or should be considered **Popular** information.

Like anything else, there are gray areas. If you're not sure if a resource is appropriate for what you're doing, consult with your instructor or librarian.

Our list of databases in [Getting Started Finding Articles](#) includes two general purpose databases that students often find useful for starting research: Proquest Research Library and Academic Search Elite. Both databases include an option for limiting a search to scholarly, peer reviewed journals.

	Scholarly Research	Popular Information
Online Appearance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Usually more than 3 pages if printed.• Will include a bibliography or reference list.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Often less than 3 pages if printed.• Usually doesn't include a bibliography or reference list.
In-Print Appearance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Plain practical covers or appearance.• Contents are usually in black and white with few or no pictures, but may include charts, graphs or diagrams.• Little or no advertising.• Usually more than 2 or 3 pages.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Usually have glossy eye-catching covers with pictures and illustrations in color.• There is usually a lot of advertising as it is used as publication revenue.• Usually less than 4 or 5 pages

<p>Audience</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written in specialized language of the discipline. • Intended for other professionals in the field, i.e. scientists, doctors, researchers and scholars. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directed towards a general audience and is written in easy to understand non-technical language.
<p>Author</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written by researchers, scholars or other authorities in a discipline. • The name and credentials of the author are usually presented. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Articles are written by staff members, freelance writers or may be unsigned.
<p>Content or Purpose</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports on research • Articles sometimes have an abstract • Articles may contain at least two of the following: Introduction or Literature Review, Theory or background, Subjects, Methods, results and Discussion. • The title often reflects the content of the article. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus is on personalities, news or general interest and may not be subject specific. • The journal's purpose is often to provide entertainment, or advance a particular point of view.
<p>Publisher</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sponsored or published by professional organizations, research institutions, universities or scholarly presses. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Published by commercial or trade publishers.

<p>Citation Source</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Usually indexed in subject specific research databases/ indexes such as <i>ERIC</i>, <i>PsycInfo</i>, or <i>Medline</i> • full text databases such as <i>Project Muse</i> or <i>JSTOR</i>. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indexed in popular research database indexes such as <i>Canadian Business Current Affairs</i>, <i>Academic Search (Ebscohost)</i>, <i>Proquest</i>.
<p>Documentation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The author provides a bibliography, footnotes or a list of references. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little if any background information is given
<p>Peer Review</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Content has been formally reviewed by experts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Content has not been reviewed or has been reviewed by an editor.
<p>Examples</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NATURE • JOURNAL OF RESEARCH IN PERSONALITY 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TIME • PSYCHOLOGY TODAY