

Scholarly Journals vs. Popular Magazines



Scholarly Journals

Scholarly journals are also called **peer-reviewed** journals. Peer review is a process by which editors have experts in a field review books or articles submitted for publication by the experts' peers. Peer review helps to ensure the quality of an information source.

Elements of Scholarly Journals:

- Articles are lengthy, in-depth and written in the jargon of the field for others with similar backgrounds
- Authors are experts in the field
- Audience is the scholarly reader [professors, students, researchers]
- Illustrations support the text
- Bibliographies or references are always included
- Examples: American Sociological Review, Journal of Abnormal Psychology; Journal of Applied Science & Engineering Technology



Popular Magazines

Magazines are publication issued on a regular basis containing popular articles, written and illustrated in a less technical manner than the articles found in a journal.

Elements of the popular magazine:

- Feature writers; columns; occasional “guest” writers
- Usually do not include any bibliographies or references
- Articles are short [between 1 and 5 pages]
- Audience is the general public
- Popular topics written for anyone to understand
- Often include flashy photography or graphic elements for marketing appeal
- Examples: Rolling Stone, Time, Popular Science, National Geographic

