What is a scholarly journal?

- Also referred to as "Peer Reviewed" or "Refereed," a scholarly journal features articles that have been reviewed and selected by other scholars in order to be published.

Characteristics of Scholarly Journals

- Scholarly journals generally have a somber, serious look. Often such journals contain graphs and charts, but not typically glossy pages or color photographs.

- Scholarly journal articles always list their information sources in the form of footnotes, endnotes, or bibliographies.

- Authors of scholarly journal articles are usually subject experts, or scholars, in their fields. Author credentials are usually listed.

- Research articles written for such journals are heavily reviewed by peer experts within the discipline and revised by the author(s) before being accepted for publication.

- The language of scholarly journals is that of the discipline covered. It assumes some degree of subject knowledge on the part of the reader.

- The main purpose of a scholarly journal is to report original research or experimentation in order to make such information available to the rest of the scholarly world. Articles tend to be lengthy and very thoroughly address the topic at hand.

- Advertisements are rare. If there are any advertisements, they are not aimed at mass market consumers, but at persons within that specific discipline.

- Articles in scholarly journals usually have a(n):
  - Bibliography or List of References
  - Abstract
  - Author Credentials
  - Supporting diagrams, tables, or illustrations

- Articles in scholarly journals will usually include at least two of the following sections:
  - Introduction
  - Theory or Background
  - Subjects
  - Methods or Methodology
  - Results
  - Discussion or Conclusions
Periodicals that are NOT Scholarly Journals

- **News magazines** such as: *Time, Newsweek, and U.S. News & World Report*
  - These magazines are aimed at a general, mass consumer audience.
  - They do not require subject familiarity or advanced reading and comprehension levels.
  - Glossy pages, mass consumer advertisements, and photos are prevalent.

- **Opinion magazines** such as: *New Republic, National Review, Nation,* etc.
  - These magazines are aimed at an educated audience, but without assuming any particular scholarly/professional background.
  - Opinion magazines comment on current events and offer a particular viewpoint on world affairs, politics, and cultural matters.
  - Glossy pages, mass consumer advertisements, and photos are prevalent.

- **Popular magazines** such as: *People, Sports Illustrated, Health, Reader's Guide, Family Circle, Popular Mechanics, McCall's,* etc.
  - Most academic libraries do not subscribe to many popular magazines. Instead, you will find a wider variety of popular magazines at public libraries and news stands.
  - No advanced reading and comprehension levels are required to enjoy these magazines which are written for the average consumer.
  - Glossy pages, mass consumer advertisements, and photos are prevalent.

- **Trade/professional journals** such as: *Progressive Grocer, Police Chief, Automotive News, American Libraries,* or *Beverage World.*
  - These magazines are industry/career specific and designed to keep the practitioner updated on topics and trends in that specific area.
  - Glossy pages, trade specific advertisement, and photos are prevalent.

- **Newspapers** such as: *Austin American Statesman, New York Times,* etc.
  - Like news magazines, newspapers also are written for the general public, contain mass consumer ads, and numerous photos.

Still not sure?

- Look up the periodical title in [Ulrich's International Periodicals Directory](https://www.ulrichsweb.com). Print copies of this reference book are also kept at the reference desk on the 2nd floor.