

Scholarly vs. Popular Journals

Scholarly Articles

Authors are *experts* in the topic

look for: educational background

- experience
- affiliation
- publishing record
- reputation in their field
- author credentials provided

Content of article

reports results of research or study

reviews extensive research studies

often includes distinct sections such as: abstract, literature review, methodology, results, conclusion, bibliography

Uses extensive references

Language/audience of article

Written in the language of the field for scholarly readers, i.e., students, researchers, students.

Tables, graphs, charts

Used to show results of the study or research

Article content reviewed/evaluated by board of experts

Often published by a professional organization, research institution, university, scholarly press

Popular or nonscholarly articles

Authors are often journalists, editorial staff, freelance writers.

Articles usually shorter, providing a broad overview

News, general interest topics, editorials, letters, etc.

Language/Audience

Written in non-technical style

Audience is anyone with a general interest in the topic

Usually have no or few references at the end of the article, but may refer to research or reports within the article.

Articles are evaluated by the editors—no peer reviewed evaluation.

Illustrative material often photographs.

Good to begin with when researching a new topic.