

## Scholarly Journals

Journals and magazines (periodicals) are important sources for timely research but it is often difficult to distinguish between the various levels of scholarship. Four types of periodicals are listed below.

1. **Scholarly:** Concerned with academic study, especially research
2. **Substantive:** Having a solid base, substantial.
3. **Popular:** Fit for, or reflecting the taste and intelligence of, the people at large
4. **Sensational:** Intended to arouse strong curiosity, interest or reaction

Keep these definitions in mind, but remember to use your best judgment. General criteria for recognizing the different types of periodicals are as follows:

### SCHOLARLY JOURNALS

- Articles are written by a scholar in the field or by someone who has done research in the field
- Articles are **peer-reviewed** – examined and approved of by other scholars in the field
- Contain many graphs and charts but few glossy pages or exciting pictures
- Always cite their sources
- The language includes jargon of the discipline covered as it assumes some scholarly background on the part of the reader
- Reports original research or experimentation in order to make such information available

#### EXAMPLES OF SCHOLARLY JOURNALS:

*American Economic Review*

*Archives of Sexual Behavior*

*JAMA: The Journal of the American Medical Association*

### SUBSTANTIVE NEWS OR GENERAL INTEREST

- Articles may be written by a member of the editorial staff, a scholar or a free lance writer
- Varied formats including newspapers
- Heavily illustrated, generally with photographs.
- Sometimes cite sources, but more often do not
- Language is geared to an audience with an interest in the topic, not just to experts in the field
- Main purpose is to provide information, in a general manner, to a broad audience

#### EXAMPLES OF SUBSTANTIVE NEWS OR GENERAL INTEREST PERIODICALS:

*Economist*

*National Geographic*

*New York Times*

*Scientific American*

## POPULAR MAGAZINES

- Articles are usually very short, written in simple slick and attractive in appearance
- Lots of graphics (photographs, drawings, etc.)
- Rarely, if ever, cites sources
- Information published is often second or third hand
- Main purpose is to entertain the reader, to sell products (their own or their advertisers), and/or to promote a viewpoint

### EXAMPLES OF POPULAR PERIODICALS:

*Ebony*  
*Readers Digest*  
*Sports Illustrated*  
*Time*

## SENSATIONAL PUBLICATIONS

- Often use a newspaper format.
- Language is elementary and usually inflammatory or sensational
- Assume that their audience is gullible
- Main purpose is to arouse curiosity and to cater to popular superstitions
- Flashy headlines are designed to astonish (e.g. Half-man Half-woman Makes Self Pregnant)

### EXAMPLES OF SENSATIONAL PERIODICALS:

*Globe*  
*National Enquirer*  
*Star*  
*Weekly World News*

## How do I find scholarly (peer-reviewed) articles?

Several databases available through the Ivy Tech library, including EBSCOHost and ProQuest, will allow you to limit your search to only retrieve the contents of scholarly journals.

1. Go to the Virtual Library, [www.ivytech.edu/library/fortwayne](http://www.ivytech.edu/library/fortwayne)
2. In the SEARCH: section, select **Articles, books, images and web site resources.**
3. In the Articles section, click **EBSCOHost** or **ProQuest.**

Scholarly articles can also be found online through Google Scholar, [scholar.google.com](http://scholar.google.com).

Please note that **not all materials published in scholarly journals are peer-reviewed.**

Scholarly journals also contain opinion essays, letters to the editor, book reviews, and other forms of writing which are **not** suitable substitutes for peer-reviewed articles.

For information on how to use any of the above resources (EBSCOHost, ProQuest, or Google Scholar), see the appropriate handout on the Virtual Library under **Tutorials and handouts**, or refer to the **Help** link on the database's homepage.