



# Popular and Scholarly Periodicals

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## About This Guide

This guide explains the differences between popular magazines and scholarly journals. Although the characteristics described below are commonly found, they are not absolute and will not apply to all periodicals.

## Popular Magazines

**General interest or popular magazines** do not undergo peer review. They usually have an attractive format with photos and illustrations. They are frequently written for a general audience by a staff or freelance writer. The language is simple and easy to understand. The purpose of these publications is to provide general information, entertain, and sometimes to sell products. They are published by commercial enterprises for profit. Use popular interest magazines if you only require general information about a topic. Do not expect to find substantial detail or in-depth analysis.

## Scholarly Journals

**Scholarly journals** are often referred to as **peer reviewed or refereed journals**. They contain articles that have undergone a review process by selected experts in the field before being accepted for publication. They have a serious format and usually have charts and graphs to illustrate concepts. All of the sources are cited with footnotes and/or a bibliography. Scholars or researchers in a specific discipline or field write the articles. The material uses the terminology and language of the discipline and the reader is expected to have a similar background. The purpose of these journals is to report or make research available to the scholarly world. Many of these journals are published by a professional organization. Use scholarly journals if you need verifiable and highly credible information. Scholarly journals often feature primary research with detailed analysis.

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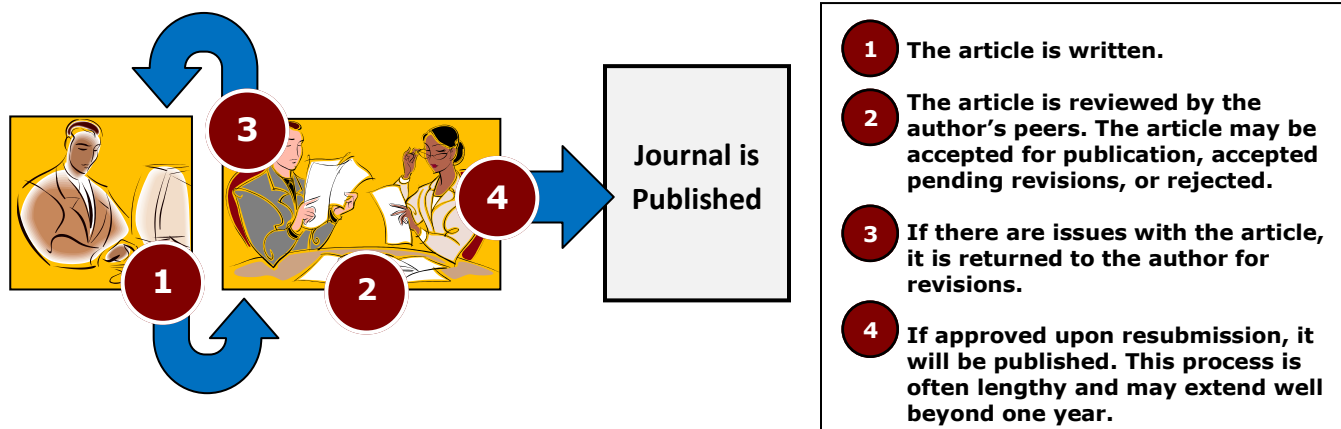
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## Examples of Different Types of Periodicals:

General or Popular Magazines	Peer Reviewed or Referred Journals:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Newsweek</i></li> <li>• <i>Prevention Magazine</i></li> <li>• <i>Fortune</i></li> <li>• <i>Science Today</i></li> <li>• <i>Psychology Newsletter</i></li> <li>• <i>Atlantic Monthly</i></li> <li>• <i>Rolling Stone</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>American Journal of Sociology</i></li> <li>• <i>New England Journal of Medicine</i></li> <li>• <i>Harvard Business Review</i></li> <li>• <i>Journal of Biological Chemistry</i></li> <li>• <i>Journal of Counseling Psychology</i></li> <li>• <i>Literary Review</i></li> <li>• <i>The Reading Teacher</i></li> </ul>

## Publication Process for Peer Reviewed Journals

This is a simplified diagram of how articles are reviewed for publication in a scholarly periodical. The publication process may not always follow the steps below.



## How to find Scholarly / Peer Reviewed Journals Using *Ulrich's Periodicals Directory*

*Ulrich's Periodicals Directory* provides information on more than 300,000 periodicals, including scholarly and popular sources. You may search for a specific title or browse by subject. Within the record for each journal, look for the "Document Type" field. The field will have a notation for "Academic/Scholarly" if the journal meets this criteria. The "Refereed" field will designate "yes" or "no" if the journal is peer reviewed. **To access:** Begin at the Library Home Page ([www.chapman.edu/library](http://www.chapman.edu/library)) - Locate the **Start Your Search** area in the middle of the page - In the **Databases** area, use the drop-down menu to search **databases by title** - Find *Ulrich's Periodicals Directory* on the alphabetical list and click **Connect**.

## How to find Scholarly / Peer Reviewed Journals Using Library Databases

Many databases provide ways for you to limit your search to just scholarly/peer reviewed sources. This option is often available on the Advanced Search screen. When searching in a database, look for a box to check that reads "Scholarly (Peer Reviewed) Journals," "Peer Reviewed," or something similar to limit your search. Be sure to check this box before beginning your search.

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