

Scholarly Journals, Popular Magazines, and Practitioner Journals

How can you tell the difference between these 3 types of periodical articles?



	SCHOLARLY JOURNALS	PRACTITIONER JOURNALS	POPULAR MAGAZINES
LENGTH	Longer articles, providing in-depth coverage	Mix of short and in-depth articles	Shorter articles, providing broader overviews of topics
AUTHORSHIP	Usually an expert or specialist in the field, name and credentials are provided	Usually a practitioner or specialty journalist	Usually a staff writer or a journalist, name and credentials often <i>not</i> provided
PURPOSE	To present research findings & expand knowledge in a discipline or field	To identify business trends; reports on an industry; provides practical advice for dealing with business issues	To entertain or inform on popular issues or popular culture
LANGUAGE/AUDIENCE	Written in the jargon of the field for scholarly readers	Written for practitioners working in a specific field	Written in non-technical language for anyone to understand
FORMAT/STRUCTURE	Structured articles which may contain these sections: abstract, literature review, methodology, results, conclusion, bibliography	Brief to medium length articles, photos of business people, short news items	Articles do not necessarily follow a specific format or structure; offers short, catchy titles
SPECIAL FEATURES	Illustrations that support the text, such as tables of statistics, graphs, maps, or photographs	Industry related advertising often focused on a particular trade. May be monthly, weekly, or daily	Illustrations with glossy or color photographs, usually for advertising purposes
EDITORS	Articles usually reviewed and critically evaluated by a board of experts in the field (peer reviewed/refereed)	Articles may be reviewed by a single editor with knowledge related to the topic	Articles are not evaluated by experts in the field, but by editors on staff
CREDITS/SOURCES	A bibliography (works cited) and/or footnotes are provided to thoroughly document research	A bibliography (works cited) is usually <i>not</i> provided, although names of reports or references may be mentioned in the text	A bibliography (works cited) is usually <i>not</i> provided

When you locate full-text articles online, it may be difficult to evaluate whether or not you have found a scholarly source without having an entire issue to examine. A specialized directory called *Magazines for Libraries*, housed in the Reference Collection on the main floor of the library can help you decide. Look for call number [R 016.05 M27](#)