

## Scholarly and Peer Review

In order to do effective scholarly research, you need to be able to discern between scholarly and non-scholarly publications, as well as what a ‘Peer-Reviewed’ publication means.

	Non-Scholarly	Scholarly
<b>Writer</b>	Staff writers and journalists	Scholars/researchers
<b>Audience</b>	General public	Scholars, including college students
<b>Reviewed by</b>	Editor	Editorial board made up of other scholars and researchers
<b>Article Style/ Purpose</b>	Shorter articles written to entertain, inform or elicit an emotional response	Longer articles written in a formal, scholarly style to share facts and report research and experiments with the academic community
<b>Documentation</b>	None	Footnotes/endnotes; bibliographies
<b>Frequency</b>	Usually published frequently (weekly or monthly)	Usually published less frequently (quarterly, semi-annually)
<b>Advertisements</b>	Numerous ads for a variety of products	If there are any ads, they are usually for scholarly products such as books
<b>Illustrations</b>	Usually numerous	Fewer, and often include charts and graphs to support research findings
<b>Appearance</b>	Usually glossy and larger in size	Usually smaller in size, thicker and with a plain cover
<b>Examples</b>	<i>Time</i> , <i>Psychology Today</i> , <i>Science News</i> , <i>New Yorker</i> (magazines you may subscribe to or buy at a newsstand)	<i>Journal of Southern History</i> , <i>Annual Review of Psychology</i> , <i>Palaeoclimatology</i> , <i>New England Journal of Medicine</i>

### Scholarly Sources: Things to Keep in Mind

You may hear scholarly sources referred to as academic, refereed or peer-reviewed. Keep in mind the following points when determining the nature of the publication you are using:

- **Scholarly, peer-reviewed/refereed publications** : This refers to the process an article goes through before being published. It is reviewed and evaluated by other scholars in the field (peers) for accuracy and to ensure it contributes to the field. Some peer-reviewed journals reject more articles than they accept. Many, but not all scholarly articles are peer-reviewed and some journals contain a mix of peer-reviewed and non peer-reviewed articles. For example, many peer-reviewed publications include book reviews which are not peer-reviewed.
- **Non-scholarly peer-reviewed publications**: Some non-scholarly sources include a peer-review process which is not necessarily carried out by scholars. For example, Wikipedia is peer-reviewed by other Wikipedians and is not scholarly. As a student, you may also peer-review your papers in a writing class.
- **Non-scholarly publications**: These may contain articles by scholars, as well. For example, your professor may write an article on his area of expertise for the general reader and publish it in *Scientific American*. In addition, many non-scholarly publications mention studies published in scholarly publications.

### **TIPS: What Kind of Publication Is It?**

- If you can't tell if something is scholarly or popular, search the database [Ullrich's Periodicals Directory](#) for the title of the journal or magazine and check the "Document Type" for the terms "academic/scholarly" or "consumer," which is another term for "another term for non-scholarly."
- When searching for articles, many databases give you an option of limiting your search to refereed/scholarly/peer-reviewed sources. For multidisciplinary databases, try [Academic Search Complete](#) and [Academic OneFile](#). Keep in mind that many [subject databases](#) only contain scholarly information.

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