

# Identifying scholarly works

## Characteristics of scholarly works and popular periodicals

When writing an academic paper, it is important to use the right resources at the right time. This table will help you identify if an article is scholarly or popular press.

Faculty often request students find "scholarly or academic journal" not "popular magazine" articles for their research sources because, in general, scholarly articles are viewed as having more authority. Articles from the popular press are viewed as being less credible.

<b>Characteristics</b>	<b>Scholarly articles</b>	<b>Popular magazines</b>
Content	Formal structure May include: abstract, literature review, methodology, results, conclusion, bibliography	No specific format or structure
Length	Longer articles provide in-depth analysis of topics	Shorter articles Broader overviews of topics
Sources	Footnotes and bibliographies	Rarely contains citations Original sources can be obscure
Review Policy	Articles read and reviewed by peers for accuracy Peer-reviewed	Articles may go through editor or editorial board
Author	Professional, specialist Noted expert in the field	Journalist, staff writer or anonymous
Audience	Researchers and professionals Advanced reading level Specialized vocabulary	General public Basic reading level Little or no specialized language
Advertising	Very little or highly specialized	Significant amount
Examples	<i>Journal of Commonwealth Literature</i> <i>Sex Roles: a Journal of Research</i> <i>JAMA: The Journal of the American</i>	<i>People</i> <i>Sports Illustrated</i> <i>MacLeans</i>

	<i>Medical Association</i>	<i>Psychology Today</i>
	<i>Annals of Science</i>	<i>Time</i>