

Scholarly (Peer-Reviewed) Journals

You may be asked to include in your research scholarly or peer-reviewed journal articles (e.g. New England Journal of Medicine) in addition to articles from popular magazines (e.g. Time or Newsweek). Peer-reviewed articles are geared toward experts and researchers in the field. They can provide more in-depth information and leads to other sources. Here are some things you can look for to help determine if it's a peer-reviewed journal or a popular magazine:

Popular Magazines:

- * Written by journalist or layperson
- * Intended for the general public
- * Often has a glossy, bright look
- * Edited by general editors of magazine
- * Often published frequently (e.g. weekly)
- * Articles are often shorter
- * Articles have no particular structure
- * Language aimed at laypersons
- * Contains many advertisements
- * Usually no bibliography
- * Often cited in general indexes

Scholarly Journals:

- * Written by expert, scholar, or educator
- * Intended for scholars and researchers
- * Unadorned look
- * Edited by scholars or peer reviewers
- * Published less frequently (e.g. quarterly)
- * Articles tend to be much longer
- * Articles have a specific structure
- * Technical language geared to field
- * Contains few, if any advertisements
- * Often includes bibliographies
- * Often cited in more specialized indexes

When searching for **books**, look to see if the publisher is a university or scholarly press. Also see if information is available about the author's credentials – is he or she an expert about their topic? Are references listed at the end of the book indicating research? Examine the citations when you search the Madison College Libraries Catalog or other catalogs like Badgercat.

When searching the **web**, try using Google Scholar, which attempts to limit results to citations and some full-text of scholarly literature.

Check the back side of this sheet for a list of **article databases** the Madison College Libraries subscribe to that provide scholarly, peer-reviewed articles.

Madison College Library subscription databases providing scholarly, peer-reviewed articles

Note: These databases can found under the "Find Articles" link on the Madison College Libraries home page. They can be accessed off-campus with your network login and password.

This database would be best in providing peer-reviewed articles on general research paper topics:

EbscoHOST

Searches multiple Ebsco databases simultaneously, covering a wide range of disciplines. (Check the **Scholarly Peer-Reviewed Journals** box)

These two databases would be best in providing peer-reviewed articles on more academic topics in the humanities or social sciences:

Humanities Full-text

400 English language periodicals in archaeology and classical studies, art, film, folklore, history, journalism, linguistics, literature, music, performing arts, philosophy, religion, and theology. (Check the **peer-reviewed** box)

JSTOR (Journal Storage Project)

Vendor: JSTOR Dates: As far back as late 1800s up to prior to past 3-7 years

Full text articles from journals in the fields of African-American studies, anthropology, Asian studies, ecology, economics, education, finance, history, literature, mathematics, philosophy, political science, population/demography, sociology, and statistics.

Need help? Check out the “Ask A Librarian” link at library.madisoncollege.edu