



### **Scholarly Journal or Magazine?**

The distinction between scholarly journals and magazines is not always clear-cut. Not all journals have all of the characteristics listed below, and some magazines have some journal-like features. The chart below lists some of the most common characteristics of both.

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Scholarly Journals</b>	<b>Magazines</b>
Purpose	To expand the current knowledge in a discipline	To entertain and inform; to make money for the publisher
Authors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Written by experts in the field such as college professors, research scientists, doctors, lawyers, and graduate students.</li><li>Authors credentials generally given</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Written by the magazine's editorial staff, journalists and freelance writers</li><li>Author's name may not be given</li><li>Author's credentials rarely stated</li></ul>
Audience:	Scholars, professionals, and students	General public or a specific group of consumers, such as computer users, African-American women or collectors of comic books
Appearance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Covers are straightforward and vary little from issue to issue</li><li>Plain, not glossy paper;</li><li>Few illustrations and most of the illustrations are black &amp; white graphs or charts</li><li>Few advertisements.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Eye-catching covers;</li><li>Glossy paper;</li><li>Lots of color pictures</li><li>Many advertisements.</li><li>Designed for visual appeal</li></ul>
Frequency	Usually quarterly or monthly	Most often weekly, biweekly, or monthly
Article selection	Articles are read and approved ( <i>peer-reviewed</i> or <i>refereed</i> ) by a panel of experts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Articles are selected by the editorial staff of the magazine.</li><li>Articles are not peer-reviewed or evaluated by experts.</li></ul>

Criteria	Scholarly Journals	Magazines
Article Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uses specialized language (jargon) of the discipline and assumes knowledge of the field</li> <li>• Lengthy articles</li> <li>• Journal articles generally include most or all of the following:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Article title</li> <li>• Author and his/her affiliation</li> <li>• Abstract</li> <li>• Problem / Hypothesis</li> <li>• Method / Procedures</li> <li>• Data analysis and results</li> <li>• Discussion, conclusions and interpretation</li> <li>• Limitations</li> <li>• Implications / Further research</li> <li>• Includes a list of works cited (bibliography) and/or footnotes</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No abstracts</li> <li>• Few if any references &amp; rarely includes an abstract</li> <li>• Uses general language or, for special interest publications, uses the jargon of the targeted group</li> <li>• Assumes little or no specialized knowledge</li> <li>• Short Articles</li> <li>• Magazine articles usually include:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Article title</li> <li>• Author--although some articles in an issue may be unsigned</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Examples	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Infants and Young Children</li> <li>• JAMA</li> <li>• Journal of Applied Psychology</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ladies Home Journal</li> <li>• Psychology Today</li> <li>• Money</li> </ul>
Similar Terms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scholarly journal</li> <li>• Peer-reviewed journal</li> <li>• Refereed journal</li> <li>• Academic journal</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Popular magazine</li> <li>• General interest magazine</li> <li>• Trade journals are written for people in a specific industry but are otherwise more like magazines than scholarly journals.</li> </ul>