

Characteristics of Scholarly Journals and Popular Periodicals*

	SCHOLARLY JOURNALS	POPULAR MAGAZINES	NEWSPAPERS
Examples	Sociological Review Psychological Reports Philosophical Quarterly Bioscience	Time Newsweek Sports Illustrated National Review	New York Times Christian Science Monitor Wall Street Journal Chicago Tribune
Value and Uses	Reports of original research In-depth analysis of topics Lengthy articles Statistical information Articles are Peer Reviewed or Refereed , meaning other scholars review articles before publication	Current events and news Brief, factual information Short articles Analysis & opinion of events Book, Music or movie reviews Interviews	News stories Current information Local and regional focus Speeches (often excerpted)
Language	College-level writing and vocabulary Specialized language of the discipline	Non-technical vocabulary Language often simple	Non-technical vocabulary written for a general audience
Authors	Researchers, academics, scholars	Journalists	Journalists
Sources	Footnotes or Works Cited list or Bibliographies Documentation often extensive	Sources rarely cited in full	Sources rarely cited in full
Publishers	Professional organizations, universities, research institutes, and scholarly presses	Commercial / trade publisher	Commercial / trade publisher
Graphics	Graphs, charts, and tables Ads are rare	Many graphics and photos Many full-page color ads	Photos, graphics, and charts Many ads
Finding Tools	Periodical Indexes such as WilsonWeb (Omnifile) or Ebscohost (Academic Search Elite) Limit to Peer Reviewed articles Specialized indexes such as PsycINFO or JSTOR	Periodical Indexes such as WilsonWeb (Readers Guide) or EbscoHost (Academic Search Elite)	Newspaper indexes such as ProQuest Newsstand or LexisNexis Academic

* Adapted by Amy Mussell from: Gradowski, Gail, Snavelly, Loanne, and Paula Dempsey, eds. Designs for Active Learning: A Sourcebook of Classroom Strategies for Information Education. Chicago: American College & Research Libraries, 1998. Revised 10/09/08.