

# Scholarly Journals vs. Magazines, Newspapers, & Other Periodicals

Journals, magazines, and newspapers are all types of periodicals—they are published periodically, usually on a regular schedule. All periodicals may be published in electronically and/or in print.

For your assignments, your instructor may require that you use articles from scholarly, or peer-reviewed, journals. This guide will help you tell the difference between scholarly journals and other types of periodicals.

Periodical type	Audience	Content	Language	Sample titles
<b>Journals of Opinion</b>	General readership	News and commentary reflecting a political point of view	Nontechnical	Nation, National Review, New Republic, Salon
<b>Magazines</b>	General readership	News and commentary on current events; broad overviews; glossy pictures	Nontechnical	Entertainment Weekly, Newsweek, Rolling Stone, Time
<b>Newspapers</b>	General readership	News and commentary on current events; broad overviews	Nontechnical	Hartford Courant, New York Times, Wall Street Journal
<b>Scholarly Journals</b>	Members of the discipline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Author is an expert in the field</li> <li>• Author credentials listed (e.g. PhD or Associate Professor)</li> <li>• In-depth analysis</li> <li>• Narrow topics</li> <li>• Original research by the author</li> <li>• Footnotes and bibliography</li> <li>• Often include a literature review</li> <li>• Articles are reviewed by experts before publication (peer-reviewed or refereed)</li> </ul>	Technical, discipline-specific	Adolescence, Human Rights Quarterly, Journal of Business Communication, Plant Cell
<b>Trade Journals</b>	Practitioners	Practice and product reviews; news for the trade or profession	Technical, discipline-specific	ABA Journal, American Libraries, Education Week

- ✓ To search for articles by subject, use a database (click on **Search Databases** on the Buley Library Home Page).
- ✓ To determine whether Buley owns or has access to a specific periodical, use the Journal Locator (link on the Buley Library home Page)
- ✓ For help citing articles, ask a librarian at the **Reference Desk**.
- ✓ For more help distinguishing between scholarly journals and other periodicals, have a look at the University of Texas at San Antonio's guide: <http://lib.utsa.edu/Research/Subject/scholarlyguide.html>