

## What is a Journal?

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You may be asked to refer to articles from peer reviewed journals in your assignment. A journal contains articles and is regularly published.

There are many types of journals, including:

- peer-reviewed journals
- scholarly, academic and scientific journals
- trade journals or magazines
- professional journals
- current affairs journals

They are sometimes referred to as magazines, periodicals, or serials.

### **Journals:**

- cover a particular discipline or subject area
- are published regularly (weekly, monthly, quarterly)
- contain articles, reviews and editorial content

There are many advantages to using journal articles for your research. Information found in journals is:

- authoritative and often peer-reviewed
- current
- digestible (with an easily understandable structure: Abstract, introduction, methodology, discussion and conclusion)
- topic specific

At the same time, journal articles are not suitable for all occasions. Journal articles generally do not provide:

- an introduction to a subject area
- a broad overview of a particular topic

Scholarly, academic and scientific journals contain articles that report on new research. The article is written by someone with academic qualifications or expert knowledge, is evidence-based, includes references and is aimed at a scholarly audience. They detail the latest research and experimental

results. They should supply enough information so that an independent researcher could repeat the experiment or calculation to verify the results.

The following guide will help you understand what these are and why you should use them:

- [Explaining Journal Articles](#) (Library guide)

## **Peer reviewed (refereed) journals**

Articles published in peer-reviewed journals go through an extensive editorial process before publication, and are therefore of a high academic standard. Not all scholarly journals are peer-reviewed.

You can check if a journal is peer reviewed (refereed) on [Ulrichsweb](#). This is an international directory that provides information about popular and academic magazines, scientific journals and other serial publications.

Otherwise, you might like to visit the journal website, to see if there is peer-reviewed (refereed) information.

Some search tools will let you restrict your search to peer-reviewed articles, using an advanced search method. Be aware - scholarly is not the same as peer reviewed.

 **VIDEO:** For further information, watch this ["How to identify peer reviewed articles for your assignment" video](#).