

Scholarly Journal v. Popular Magazine Articles

How can you tell the difference?



Scholarly



Popular

Length	Longer articles, providing in-depth analysis of topics	Shorter articles, providing broader overviews of topics
Authorship	Author usually an expert or specialist in the field; name and credentials always provided	Author usually a staff writer or a journalist, name and credentials often not provided
Language/ Audience	Written in the jargon of the field for scholarly readers, professors, researchers or students	Written in non-technical language for anyone to understand
Format/ Structure	Articles usually structured, may include: abstract, literature review, methodology, results, conclusion, bibliography	Articles do not necessarily follow a specific format or structure
Special Features	Illustrations that support the text, such as tables of statistics, graphs, maps, or photographs	Illustrations with glossy or color photographs, usually for advertising purposes
Editors	Articles usually reviewed and critically evaluated by a board of experts in the field (refereed or peer reviewed)	Articles are not evaluated by experts in the field, but by editors on staff
Credits	A bibliography (works cited) and/or footnotes always provided to document research	A bibliography (works cited) is usually not provided, although names of reports or references may be mentioned in the text

Still can't tell the difference? These resources at JPL & DT Libraries can help:

Ulrich's International Periodicals Directory / Reference Desk Z6941 .U5 or available online.
Magazines for Libraries / Reference Desk Z6941 .K2