What is a Scholarly Journal?

Your instructor may require your research come from a scholarly journal. How is this different from a magazine? While there is no clear-cut definition of a scholarly journal, sometimes called peer-reviewed, note these differences:

Scholarly Journal

more formal appearance
few bright colors or photos
the words "Journal" or "Quarterly"
may appear in the title
intended for a more limited
(academic) audience
published by a university press
articles written by scholars in the field
reporting original research
more complex writing style
may include graphs or charts
published bi-monthly, quarterly,
semi-annually, or annually



Popular Magazine

bright, attractive covers

many glossy pictures

designed to attract a broad segment
of the population

published by a commercial publisher

characterized by short articles written
by staff

non-technical, popular writing style,
easy to understand

focus on current events, popular topics of the day

published daily, weekly or monthly



Trade Journal

information of use to a particular industry

advertising appeals to those in the field

may have a format similar to popular magazines, such as colorful pictures and catchy headlines

