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