

## Scholarly Journals vs. Popular Magazines



### Scholarly Journals

- Intended for people involved in a particular profession or field of study.
- Main purpose is to communicate the results of scholarly research.
- Plain and serious looking, with few or no advertisements. Pictures are usually limited to charts, graphs, and other illustrations that support the text.
- Pagination is often continuous, meaning the first issue of a volume begins on page one, and the page numbers advance through the last issue of the volume.
- Articles are often highly technical and include subject-specific terminology.
- Articles usually provide in-depth analysis of a topic.
- Articles usually include bibliographic references.
- Articles are reviewed by a panel of experts to make sure the information is reliable. (This is why journals are sometimes referred to as “peer-reviewed” or “refereed” publications.)
- Names of authors are usually provided. Authors are scholars or professionals who are typically unpaid for their work.

### Popular Magazines

- Intended for the general public.
- Main purpose is to entertain, advertise products, and/or promote a particular point of view.
- Attractive and colorful, with lots of ads and pictures.
- Pagination is not continuous. Each new issue begins on page one.
- Articles are written in everyday language that most people can understand.
- Articles usually provide only an overview of a topic.
- Articles seldom include bibliographic references.
- Articles are reviewed by staff editors who may not be experts on the subject.
- Names of authors may or may not be provided. Authors are usually paid staff writers or freelancers.