

Scholarly Journals vs. Popular Magazines

Criteria	Scholarly Journals	Popular Magazines
Examples	American Journal of Psychology British Medical Journal Harvard Business Review Annals of Mathematics	People Newsweek Sports Illustrated Time
Content	In-depth, primary account of original findings written by the researcher(s)	General information to entertain or inform; may include secondary discussion of someone else's research
Article Acceptance Procedure/Editors	Articles "peer reviewed" and critically evaluated by experts in the field of study	Articles are not reviewed by experts but by general editors on staff
Author	Usually expert(s) or specialists in the field, name and credentials always included	Usually a staff writer or journalist, often name and credentials not provided
Purpose	Discuss a specific scholarly field	Current events, general interest items
Length	Longer articles, providing in-depth analysis of topics	Shorter articles providing broader overviews of topics
Appearance	Usually includes illustrations that support the text such as tables of data, graphs, maps, or photographs	Glossy paper, heavily illustrated, mostly for advertising purposes
Layout/Format	Usually more structure and may include: Abstract, literature review, methodology, results, conclusion, bibliography	Articles do not follow any specific format
References/Bibliography	List of references is always included to document research	Rarely include references
Language/Audience	Advanced reading level; may have specialized vocabulary and written in the jargon of the field	Basic reading level for general audience