



Scholarly Journals vs. Popular Magazines

Characteristics

Scholarly

Popular

How can you tell the difference between these two types of periodical articles?



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

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 evaluated by a board of experts in the field (refereed)

Articles not evaluated by experts in the field, but by editors on staff

Credits

A bibliography (works cited) and/or footnotes are always provided to document research thoroughly

A bibliography (works cited) is usually not provided, although names of reports or references may be mentioned in the text

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