

Scholarly Journal Articles v. Popular Magazine Articles

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



Scholarly

Popular

Length	Longer articles, providing in-depth analysis of topics and reports of new research.	Shorter articles, providing broader overviews of topics, and news items.
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 language of the discipline for scholarly readers (professors, researchers, practitioners, or students).	Written in non-technical language for anyone to understand.
Format/Structure	Articles are usually more structured. They may include these sections: abstract, literature review, methodology, results, conclusion, bibliography.	Articles do not necessarily follow a specific format or structure.
Special Features	Illustrations that support the text, such as tables of statistics, graphs, maps, or photographs.	Many illustrations with glossy or color photographs.
Advertising	Ads for books and products related to the field of study.	Many colorful ads for consumer products.
Editors	Articles usually reviewed and critically evaluated by a board of experts in the field (<i>refereed</i>).	Articles are not evaluated by experts in the field, but by editors on staff.
Credits	A list of references (bibliography or works cited) and/or footnotes are always provided to document research thoroughly.	A list of references (bibliography or works cited) is usually <i>not</i> provided, although names of reports or references may be mentioned in the text.

Still can't tell the difference? Ask a librarian or consult one of these resources: *Ulrich's International Periodicals Directory* Ref Z6941.U5, *Magazines for Libraries* Ref Z6941.K2