

## Finding Scholarly Articles & Research Studies

### How to tell the difference between scholarly journals and popular magazines:

When you do research, you may be asked to find scholarly or refereed journals instead of popular or trade magazines.

The chart below provides some helpful characteristics of each; but remember, there are exceptions. The physical look can often give you hints as to the type of publication, but it is most important to evaluate the content of each article to determine its credibility and usefulness.

- When possible, look at the print issue or the publisher's web site for online articles to read about the scope of the journal, the intended audience, and the types of articles that are included.
- A journal may be scholarly, but include articles within it that don't meet the following criteria. These may include book reviews and editorials.

Scholarly or Research Journals & Articles	Popular or Trade Magazines & Articles
✓ contain graphs and charts	✓ contain lots of graphics and colored pictures
✓ include a list of cited sources in footnotes and/or a bibliography	✓ do not contain a list of the resources that were used to write the article or refer to other sources, but don't document them in any way
✓ may be published by a professional society, organization or association	✓ are published by a company Example: Time/Warner
✓ include limited advertisements related to that subject field Example: scholarly books or publications	✓ contain glossy advertisements unrelated to article
✓ use terminology that is specific to a subject discipline	✓ are written to appeal to a wide audience or people in a particular trade or business profession
✓ are found in libraries and other academic, medical or scientific settings	✓ can be purchased at grocery stores or are published by trade societies or certain fields or industries
✓ contain articles approved by author's peers (peer reviewed) or editorial boards on topics of scholarly, research, scientific, or medical interest	✓ contain articles chosen by editors who are employed by the magazine or people within a certain trade field
✓ have long articles (often 5+ pages)	✓ have articles which are often much shorter (1/4 page to 5 pages)
Examples: American Journal of Sociology Child Abuse & Neglect Journal of Abnormal Psychology	Examples: Time Car & Driver Newsweek

## Finding Empirical Research Articles or Research Studies

### What is a research study?

Research studies are articles written that are derived from actual observation or experiments. Research studies are usually very specific and often relate to a particular field of study or specialty within a field. These are original research papers whose authors have done the research, rather than reporting on someone else's research.

Most research uses one of the following types of data and these words can be found in the abstract or sections of the article (they are often useful words to search with to help you find a research study): observation, questionnaires, interviews, controlled experiment, case studies, user studies, experimental research, and survey research.

### What types of headings or sections are used?

When you are searching for research articles, the following headings are often used and can be flags to help you find an original article.

- Title
- Abstract
- Introduction/Literature Review
- Purpose of the study/hypothesis/problem statement
- Methodology/procedures/research design
- Major findings/results/analysis/discussion
- Summary/conclusion/ideas for future studies/implications
- Works cited/references/acknowledgements
- Notes/appendices
- Tables, charts, figures, statistical data (throughout the article)

### What are helpful keywords to use in a search?

You can also search on individual words with your specific subject to help you narrow down a topic area to research articles only:

study, measure, subjects, data, surveys, statistical, research, quantitative

For example, if you were looking for a research article on behavioral disorders, you could search:

**“behavior\* disorder\*” and study**            or            **“behavior\* disorder\*” and research**

The \* is a truncation symbol which searches for variant endings. In the example above, behavior\* searches for behavior, behaviors, behavioral, behaviorism.

This symbol varies by database. In OhioLINK, the \* is used for all the EBSCO databases (such as Academic Search Premier) and the \$ is used for all OhioLINK research databases (such as PsycINFO or CINAHL).

### Limiting to Research Articles:

In some of the databases, you can limit your search to peer reviewed, scholarly, or research articles. This is a way to get started, but it is not a guarantee. You always need to evaluate each article individually.