<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Scholarly Professional Journals</th>
<th>Popular Magazines</th>
<th>Trade Publications</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Article Type</strong></td>
<td>In-depth research articles, often peer-reviewed; usually includes an abstract; may be brief news of developments in the field or recent research, academic book reviews</td>
<td>Brief, nontechnical, current events, news; quick facts; short interviews, brief book reviews, ads</td>
<td>Product reviews; industry statistics; new publications; patents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Purpose</strong></td>
<td>To provide information about, report, or present original research or experiments</td>
<td>To provide general information to, entertain, or persuade the general public</td>
<td>To provide news or information to practitioners in an industry or trade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Authors</strong></td>
<td>Clearly defined; experts with significant knowledge in the subject area, scholars, and researchers</td>
<td>Not always identified; staff writers</td>
<td>Not always identified; staff writers, practitioners in the trade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Audience</strong></td>
<td>Professors, researchers, and students, members of association; other professionals in the field</td>
<td>General</td>
<td>Intended for those with an interest in a specific industry or trade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Publisher</strong></td>
<td>Typically a university or professional association</td>
<td>Typically commercial</td>
<td>Typically commercial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Writing Style</strong></td>
<td>Formal or semiformal; scholarly language; may use technical or specialized language</td>
<td>Informal; language is easy to understand</td>
<td>Informal; may use technical or specialized language</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Documentation</strong></td>
<td>Footnotes or endnotes; bibliography; suggested resources for more information</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Suggested resources for more information, sometimes a brief bibliography</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Illustrations/ Graphics</strong></td>
<td>May include tables, graphs, charts, or equations to support the research</td>
<td>Often includes glossy photographs, ads, images</td>
<td>May include black &amp; white or color images, graphs, or charts</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: [http://www.umuc.edu/library/libhow/scholarlyjournals.cfm](http://www.umuc.edu/library/libhow/scholarlyjournals.cfm)
What is Peer Review?

In academic publishing, the goal of peer review is to assess the quality of articles submitted for publication in a scholarly journal. Before an article is deemed appropriate to be published in a peer-reviewed journal, it must undergo the following process:

- The author of the article must submit it to the journal editor who forwards the article to experts in the field. Because the reviewers specialize in the same scholarly area as the author, they are considered the author’s peers (hence “peer review”).

- These impartial reviewers are charged with carefully evaluating the quality of the submitted manuscript. The peer reviewers check the manuscript for accuracy and assess the validity of the research methodology and procedures. If appropriate, they suggest revisions. If they find the article lacking in scholarly validity and rigor, they reject it.

Because a peer-reviewed journal will not publish articles that fail to meet the standards established for a given discipline, peer-reviewed articles that are accepted for publication exemplify the best research practices in a field.

Features of a Peer-Reviewed Article

When you are determining whether or not the article you have found is a peer-reviewed article, you should consider the following questions:

- Is the journal in which you found the article published or sponsored by a professional scholarly society, professional association, or university academic department?
- Does it describe itself as a peer-reviewed publication? (To know that, check the journal’s website).
- Did you limit your search to scholarly or peer-reviewed publications when searching?
- Is there an abstract (summary) at the beginning of the article?
- Is the tone of the article thoughtful, restrained and serious?
- Does the article have footnotes or citations of other sources?
- Does the article have a bibliography or list of references at the end?
- Are the author's credentials listed?
- Is the topic of the article narrowly focused and explored in depth?
- Is the article based on either original research or authorities in the field (as opposed to personal opinion)?
- Is the article written for readers with some prior knowledge of the subject?

If your field is social or natural science, is the article divided into sections with headings such as those listed below?

- Introduction
- Theory or Background
- Methods
- Discussion
- Literature review
- Subjects
- Results
- Conclusion

Source: http://guides.lib.jjay.cuny.edu/content.php?pid=209679&sid=1746812