

Is it a Scholarly Journal?

	Scholarly Journals	Magazines	Trade Journals
Written for	Professors and students	General public	Workers in a specific industry
Written by	Scholars	Professional writers	Professional writers and industry experts
Looks like	Serious and sober with few colors	Glossy with advertisements	Glossy with industry specific advertisements
Articles	<p>Are signed and often include author's credentials</p> <p>Are written in technical and scholarly language</p> <p>Report on research and scholarship</p> <p>Are usually at least 10 pages in length</p> <p>Contain footnotes and references to other journal articles</p> <p>May be reviewed by an editorial board</p>	<p>Are not always signed by the author</p> <p>Are written in relatively simple language</p> <p>Report on current topics and events</p> <p>Are usually under 10 pages in length</p>	<p>Are not always signed by the author</p> <p>Include technical language specific to the industry</p> <p>Report on industry trends and news</p> <p>Are usually under 10 pages in length</p>
Examples	Childhood Education Social Psychology Quarterly	Sports Illustrated Peoples weekly	Advertising Age PC World

Timeline of an Event

Another way of looking at the difference between popular and scholarly sources is to consider their relationship to the timeline of a particular event. Popular sources like magazines, newspapers, and web sites will give the first reports and then scholarly journals and books will follow up with more detailed discussions.