

# What are Scholarly Journals?

## Why are they important?

Scholarly journals, also called **peer-reviewed, academic, refereed or professional journals**, are a major source of information for writing term papers and research projects. \*Articles in them have been reviewed and critiqued by the author's peers prior to publication, and they represent the most current research performed by scholars and scientists. **The database INFOTRAC is a good source for peer-reviewed articles.**

Table 1 Characteristics that distinguish these scholarly journals from popular magazines are:

Scholarly Journal	vs	Popular Magazine
Researcher or scholar in the field	Who wrote the article?	Journalist, freelance writer, editorial staff, anyone
Other scholars, researchers, professionals, or students in the field	Who is the intended audience?	Of general interest to the general public
To report original research, experiments, or theories	What is the purpose of the publication?	To inform or entertain
Always has citations, works cited, bibliography, and/or references	Did the author cite his/her sources?	Sources are seldom, if ever, cited
A professional association or organization	Who published it?	Commercial enterprise, business or a special interest organization

### Examples of Scholarly Journal Covers



### Examples of Popular Magazine Covers



**IMPORTANT:** From off-campus, the password for InfoTrac is the word **elvis**

\*Remember before choosing your articles, ask your Instructor if they want you to cite only scholarly, peer-reviewed resources.