

Periodicals Comparison Chart

<http://infodome.sdsu.edu/research/evaluate/percompchart.shtml>

Scholarly Journals, Popular Magazines, and Trade Publications

Your instructor has asked you to find articles in scholarly (or professional or refereed) journals. Although no clear-cut definition can be given, the following traits can help you distinguish between them and two other types of periodicals: popular magazines and trade publications. Look for a majority of the traits listed below (those with an * are the most important). If in doubt, ask your instructor or a librarian.

For more information on articles and other types of information packages, see [Information Packages \(Sources of Information\)](#).

CRITERIA	SCHOLARLY JOURNALS	POPULAR MAGAZINES	TRADE PUBLICATIONS
AUTHOR*	Expert (scholar, professor, researcher, etc.) in field covered. Author nearly always named.	Journalist; nonprofessional or layperson. Sometimes author is not named.	Business or industry representative. Sometimes author is not named.
NOTES*	Usually includes notes and/or bibliographic references.	Few or no notes or bibliographic references.	Few or no notes or bibliographic references.
CONTENTS	News and research (methodology, theory) from the field.	Current events; general interest.	Business or industry information (trends, products, techniques).
STYLE	Written for experts using technical language.	Journalistic; written for nonprofessional or layperson.	Written for people in the business or industry using technical language.
AUDIENCE	Scholars or researchers in the field.	General public.	People in the business or industry.
EDITING	Usually reviewed by an editorial board of peer scholars (referees) not employed by the journal.	Reviewed by one or more editors employed by the magazine.	Reviewed by one or more editors employed by the magazine.
APPEARANCE	Plain; mostly print, sometimes with black and white figures, tables, graphs and/or charts.	Glossy, with many pictures in color.	Glossy, with many pictures in color.
ADS	Few or none; if any, usually for books or other professional materials.	Many, often in color.	Some, often in color.

FREQUENCY	Usually monthly or quarterly.	Usually weekly or monthly.	Usually weekly or monthly.
INDEXING	Found in subject specialized indexes and databases (for example, <i>PsycInfo</i>).	Found in general periodical indexes (for example, <i>Academic Search Elite (EBSCO)</i> and <i>ProQuest Research Library</i>).	Sometimes found in business or industry specialized indexes and databases (for example, <i>Business and Industry Database</i>).
EXAMPLES	<u>American Psychologist</u> (published by the American Psychological Association).	<u>Psychology Today</u> (commercially published).	<u>Monitor on Psychology</u> (published by the American Psychological Association).