

## Scholarly Journals

### Definition

*Webster's Third New International Dictionary* defines **scholarly** as: "concerned with academic study, especially research; exhibiting the methods and attitudes of a scholar; and having the manner and appearance of a scholar."

With this definition in mind, following are characteristics of scholarly and non-scholarly journals:

### Scholarly Journals

- ◆ Place emphasis on content instead of appearance; contain many charts and graphs.
- ◆ Focused on one discipline (e.g. *Journal of Immunology*).
- ◆ Contain articles written by researchers, experts and scholars in that discipline.
- ◆ Often include author credentials.
- ◆ Report on original research or experimentation.
- ◆ Include extensive bibliographies with footnotes, endnotes or parenthetical citations.
- ◆ Articles undergo "peer review" or are "refereed", including a rigorous approval and editing process by other scholars and experts in that discipline.

Examples:            *Diacritics: A Review of Contemporary Criticism*  
                              *Educational Administration Quarterly*  
                              *New England Journal of Medicine*

### Non-Scholarly Magazines, Newspapers & Trade Journals

- ◆ **News magazines** (e.g. *Time*, *Newsweek* and *U.S. News & World Report*)  
While these publications can provide great introductions and summaries, they do not provide the same depth of analysis as scholarly journals. Their articles are usually *not* written by scholars and are written for a more general audience.
- ◆ **Opinion magazines** (e.g. *New Republic*, *National Review* and *The Nation*)  
These magazines are aimed at an educated audience, but are not focused on a particular discipline. They comment on current events and offer opinions on world affairs, politics and cultural matters.
- ◆ **Popular magazines** (e.g. *Sports Illustrated*, *Redbook* and *People*)  
These magazines are designed to be entertaining and attractive, but they do not report original research or cite sources consistently. In general, these should not be used in research assignments. Public libraries, rather than academic libraries, tend to carry more of these.
- ◆ **Trade journals** (e.g. *Beverage World*, *Advertising Age* and *Automotive News*)  
These publications are industry specific and designed to update and inform the reader on current industry trends.

Last revised on 9/10/2004 by Spohn