

Northeast Lakeview College LRC

Resource Guide – Types of Periodicals

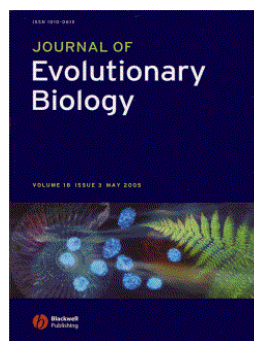
What are periodicals?

Periodicals are publications which are issued on a regular basis (i.e. periodically), such as daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly, etc. Examples include journals, magazines, and newspapers. Types of periodicals include **academic/scholarly journals**, **trade/professional journals**, **popular/general interest periodicals**, and **sensational periodicals**.

What are academic/scholarly journals?

Academic/scholarly journals are used to distribute research throughout an academic discipline such as Psychology or Biology. They are usually not available for free online; the NLC Library pays money so you, the student, can access them!

- **Audience:** scholars & researchers in the discipline/field
- **Authors:** scholars & researchers in the discipline/field
- **Language:** academic/technical
- **Use of advertisements & pictures:** very limited
- **Citation of sources:** properly credit all sources via “References”, “Works Cited”, or “Bibliography”, plus footnotes or in-text citations
- **When to use:** You need sources for an academic paper and want an in-depth treatment of a narrowly focused topic, and/or the most current research in a field
- **Examples:**



What are peer-reviewed journals?

Peer-reviewed journals, also sometimes called “refereed”, are a subset of scholarly journals. In other words, all peer-reviewed journals are scholarly, but not all scholarly journals are peer-reviewed. Articles in peer-reviewed journals are reviewed by other researchers prior to publication. Often articles are rejected or returned to the author for modification. This rigorous review process results in publication of only the highest-quality articles.

Alternate format available upon request. Please inquire at the Reference Desk.

How can I determine if a journal is peer-reviewed?

- ✓ Many databases offer a convenient check-box on the Advanced Search screen which will allow you to limit your search to only peer-reviewed articles.
- ✓ Many databases allow you to click on the journal title (“Source”) from any result to find out if it’s peer-reviewed.
- ✓ Search the [Serials Directory database](#) for the journal title. Most peer-reviewed journals are indicated as such in their records (it will say Peer Reviewed: Yes).
- ✓ If none of the above methods work, try searching for the publication’s website via a search engine such as Google. Look for the words “peer reviewed” or “refereed” in either the information provided about the publication or the information for authors.

What are trade/professional journals?

Trade/professional journals are used to inform members of a particular trade/profession (i.e. industry) about matters pertaining to them, such as product and business information

- **Audience:** people in the industry
- **Authors:** people in the industry
- **Language:** terminology of the industry
- **Use of advertisements & pictures:** sometimes heavy, but focused on the particular industry
- **Citation of sources:** sometimes
- **When to use:** You want to see what people in the industry read, or learn more about current events in the industry. Can be useful for academic papers.
- **Examples:**



What are popular/general interest periodicals?

Popular/general interest periodicals are used to entertain, inform, and/or persuade the general public.

- **Audience:** general public
- **Authors:** journalists, staff writers; names often (but not always) provided
- **Language:** non-technical, written for minimal educational level
- **Use of advertisements & pictures:** heavy
- **Citation of sources:** usually not

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- **When to use:** Mainly for entertainment purposes; Can be useful for broad/general information, but check with your instructor before using as a source.
- **Examples:**



What are sensational periodicals?

Sensational periodicals are used to arouse curiosity, astonish, and/or appeal to people's fears. They are often misleading and seek to promote gossip.

- **Audience:** anyone gullible enough to read them
- **Authors:** staff writers; names often not provided
- **Language:** elementary, sometimes sensational or inflammatory
- **Use of advertisements & pictures:** heavy
- **Citation of sources:** none
- **When to use:** Never! Sensational periodicals are usually not carried by libraries and should never be used as sources in academic papers.
- **Examples:**



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