

## Athens State University Library

### Identifying the Scholarly Journal: A “Quick and Dirty” Guide

Scholarly journals may be described as professional journals or refereed journals, all essentially synonymous terms. The scholarly journal may best be defined by its characteristics, and especially by comparing features of a scholarly journal with those of a general magazine.

	<b>Journals</b>	<b>Magazines</b>
<b>Audience</b>	Scholars and specialists	General public
<b>Author</b>	Often affiliated with a college or university Academic credentials often cited	Journalist or layperson Sometimes no author cited
<b>Method of Presentation</b>	Academic or specialized language Some jargon possible Usually an abstract or summary precedes the article Statistical methods may be employed Bibliography and references Charts, tables, graphs, and technical illustrations	Language of the layman Few technical words No abstract  Little or no statistical methods No bibliography/references Illustrations consist of photographs or line drawings
<b>Publication</b>	Published by universities or specialized associations List of reviewers or referees included Frequency of publication usually monthly or quarterly Guidelines for submission of articles specified	Produced by commercial publishers No list of reviewers  Frequency of publications usually weekly or monthly No guidelines for submission of articles
<b>Advertising</b>	Little or no advertising	Advertising aimed at general public
<b>Indexing</b>	Articles may be found in specialized indexes such as PsycInfo, JSTOR, ABI/Inform and SocIndex, and occasionally in general periodical indexes such as Academic Search Premier	Articles are typically found in general periodical indexes such as Expanded Academic or Academic Search Premier
<b>Examples</b>	American Historical Review Academy of Management Journal Journal of Learning Disabilities	Time Business Week Education Week

**If in doubt, ask your instructor or a reference librarian!**