



It is likely that at some point in your studies you will be asked to find 'scholarly', 'peer reviewed' or 'refereed' journal articles.

What does this mean? How do you find what you need?

Is there a difference between a magazine and a journal?

Both magazines and journals are examples of 'serials':



- Made available in successive parts (*issues*) with the same title
- Issues are usually released regularly (e.g. monthly, quarterly)
- Each issue consists of a collection of *articles*
- Magazines include popular titles (e.g. *Woman's Day*), which discuss topics of interest to the general public
- Journal titles include *trade* (e.g. *Welding Journal*) and *scholarly* (e.g. *Qualitative Research Journal*) titles



What is a scholarly journal?

- Articles are written by researchers or scholars in the discipline
- Specialised discipline terminology or jargon is used
- Articles are often peer reviewed
- Most articles are preceded by an *abstract* (a summary of the content) and followed by a comprehensive list of references

What is a peer reviewed/refereed article?

This type of article has been evaluated and recommended for publication by one or more experts in the field. These reviewers consider factors such as:

- the author's familiarity with current research and commentary
- soundness of argument and methodology
- whether the article makes a contribution to the field

Why should I use peer reviewed journal articles?

At university you are expected to use reputable sources. Peer review is an accepted measure of quality. Depending on your discipline and assignment, you may be required to use only peer reviewed articles.



How do I find peer reviewed articles?

Some search tools allow you to *limit* (restrict) your search so that all results are peer reviewed.

Others (such as the Library Catalogue) allow you to select a *Peer Reviewed* or *Scholarly Publication* limit. This will remove much of the more 'popular' material but is not the same as limiting to only *peer reviewed*. If a database limits to 'scholarly' but does not specify 'peer reviewed' and you need peer reviewed articles, you can check a journal's status using *Ulrichsweb global serials directory* (see below).

The Library Catalogue

Refine from your **search results** . . .



Other search tools

Some databases (e.g. *ScienceDirect*, *PsycARTICLES*, *Web of Science* and *SAGE journals online*) only include peer reviewed journal articles. Most other databases allow you to limit to **peer reviewed**, either by selecting an option before searching, or from the results screen

How can I be sure that an article is peer reviewed?

Use Ulrichsweb!

Ulrichsweb: Global Serials Directory can be accessed from the Library's list of databases. Enter the journal title in the search box (e.g. *environment and behavior*) and select . No results? Try searching again using selected keywords from the title.



If the journal is peer reviewed:

- the **Refereed** symbol  appears next to the journal title; and
- *Refereed: Yes* appears in the description (select the title link)

If the title is not listed on Ulrichsweb:

Check the journal website for evidence of peer review. This may be stated explicitly or be evident from other details such as instructions to authors about submitting articles for peer review.

For further information about Library resources and services visit: www.library.unisa.edu.au/

