

What is the difference between scholarly and peer reviewed (refereed) publications?

Scholarly Publications

A publication is regarded as scholarly if it is authored by experts, for experts. The publication is academic in focus as it reports original research (experimentation), research methodology or theory. Generally, scholarly journals are targeted for professional or academic researchers and provide detailed analysis concentrating on a single discipline or academic field. The publication will likely be peer reviewed or refereed by external reviewers. The publisher is typically a professional association or an academic press.

Peer Reviewed (Refereed) Publications

Prior to publication, articles are submitted and go through a rigorous assessment that involves review and approval by the author's peers (experts in the same subject area). Peer reviewed serials publish articles only if they have passed through the official editorial process. The peer review and evaluation system is utilized to safeguard, maintain, and improve the quality of scholarly materials published in serials.

While not all scholarly journals go through the peer review process, it is usually safe to assume that a peer reviewed journal is also scholarly. **Remember, just because a journal is peer reviewed does not guarantee that all articles in it are included in the peer review process. Some article types, such as news items, editorials and book and article reviews, may not be peer reviewed.**

The best way to determine if a particular journal is peer reviewed:

1. Refer to the attached chart outlining the differences between types of journals.
2. Examine the periodical in print or the online version. In the print version, look for instructions to the authors and determine if the submission process includes reviewers or referees. This information can usually be found on the inside front or back cover. In the online version check on the publisher's Website.

	Scholarly and Peer Reviewed (Refereed)	Trade Publications
Appearance	Plain cover and paper Technical jargon Black and white photos Limited advertisements	Glossy, color photos, and trade related advertisements.
Purpose	Share results of research Advance knowledge in a specialty	Provides practical news and information to members of an industry or profession.
Author	Researchers or scholars in their field. Credentials listed.	Professionals and staff writers with expertise.
Content	Narrow in scope, lengthy, structured sections, graphs and tables.	Moderate in length, reports on industry trends, techniques, topics of interest, career information, and convention information.
Audience	Scholars, professionals, researchers, students.	Members of a specific business or organization.
Accountability	Controlled by a peer-review process.	Controlled by journalistic or professional ethics.
Bibliography	Bibliographies or endnotes in formal styles.	Occasionally cite sources.
Examples	<i>Journal of the American Medical Association</i> <i>Journal of Hand Therapy</i> <i>New England Journal of Medicine</i> <i>Brain</i> <i>Clinical Orthopaedics and Related Research</i>	<i>Advance for Occupational Therapy Practitioners</i> <i>PT Magazine</i> <i>News-Line for Physical Therapists & PT Assistants</i> <i>OT Practice Magazine</i> <i>Rehab Management</i>