

# Linscheid Library User Instruction



## Peer-Reviewed Journals

Databases contain articles from many different periodical sources, including magazines, newspapers and peer-reviewed journals, but chances are your professors will want you to use peer-reviewed journals for your research. Keep in mind that peer-reviewed journals may also be called

- Scholarly journals
- Academic journals.

### What are they?

Peer-reviewed journals are those journals that contain articles that have been reviewed by a body of peers who are in the same field with the writer.

### Why Use Them?

Peer review is a well-accepted indicator of quality scholarship. This means that articles accepted for publication through a peer review process implicitly meet the discipline's expected standards of expertise.

### Scholarly vs Popular: How to Tell the Difference

There are a number of criteria to use to determine whether material is popular or scholarly:

<b>Scholarly</b>	<b>Popular</b>
Formal in format. Scholarly or professional focus	Popular in nature
Written by experts in the field for a specialized audience	Written by reporters for a general audience
Includes footnotes or a bibliography at the end of the article	Usually no footnotes or bibliography

Very little advertising	Advertisements scattered throughout publication
In many cases articles are reviewed by author's peers before publication	Editors or publishers review the articles before they are published

Peer reviewed journals can be identified using **Ulrich's International Periodical Directory**—available on the Electronic Resources page.

Certain Electronic databases will search specifically for peer-reviewed journals. They are:

- 1) Academic Search Premier
- 2) ACS (American Chemical Society)
- 3) Education Abstracts
- 4) JSTOR
- 5) PsychINFO
- 6) SocINDEX

Consult a reference librarian if you need specific information (310-5371).