

Guide to Scholarly Journal Articles

What is...?

A Scholarly or Academic Journal?

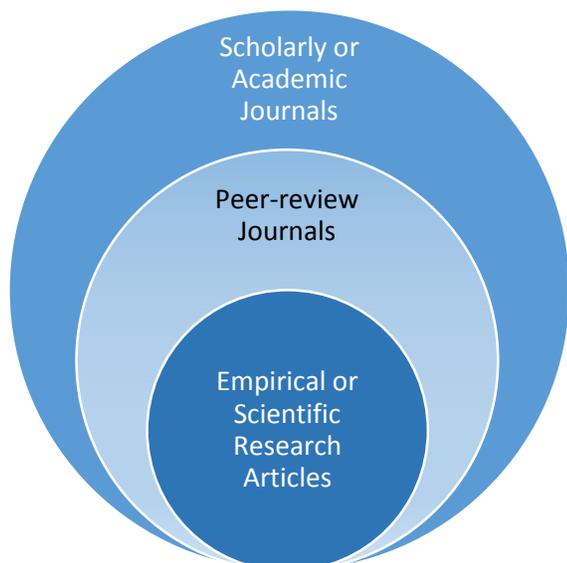
- Published periodically, like a magazine
- Focused on a specific academic discipline and publish mostly technical or research-based articles
- Articles are written by discipline experts, and the audience of readers are discipline experts and students
- Most scholarly journals are also peer-reviewed

A Peer-review Journal?

- Most scholarly journals are peer-reviewed
- Articles are approved for publication by a committee of “peers” who are also experts in discipline of the author. This process is designed to give an extra measure of reliability and authority to the articles published.

A Scientific or Empirical Research Article?

- One type of article published in a Scholarly or Peer-review journal
- An article that is a first-hand account of experimental research.



How to...?

Find a Scholarly (Peer-review / Empirical research / Scientific) article?

- The best, most efficient and reliable way to find one of these articles is to search a Library subscription database such as EBSCOhost's:
 - Academic Search Elite (all subjects)
 - PsycArticles (Psychology)
 - CINAHL (Nursing)
 - Science Full Text (Natural Sciences)
- Limit your search in these databases to Scholarly articles by checking this box:

A screenshot of a search filter box titled "Limit To". It contains two options: "Full Text" with an unchecked checkbox, and "Scholarly (Peer Reviewed) Journals" with a checked checkbox.

Be sure you found an Empirical Research or Scientific article?

- Read the abstract first. It should reference the “study”, “research” or “experiment”; give a summary of how the research was done and the results of the research
- Research articles are usually at least 7 pages long
- If the article is NOT research it might be a book report or a summary of several other research articles. Although scholarly, these are NOT empirical or scientific research
- If you can access the full text of the article, look for the sections:
 - Introduction
 - Methods
 - Results
 - Discussion
 - Bibliography

Using EBSCOhost Databases to find Scholarly / Peer-review Journal Articles

EBSCOhost is a searchable collection of subscription magazine and journal articles. It would be difficult and time-consuming to try to find articles of this quality and reliability through Google. But EbscoHost makes it much easier.

Instructions:

1. From the Library homepage (www.kirkwood.edu/library) click on EBSCOhost in the lower right side of the page. Then select the database(s) you want to search. **Academic Search Elite, PsycArticles, CINAHL and Science Full Text** are the best places to begin when looking for Scholarly Journal Articles.
2. Enter keywords for the subject you want to search. Keep it simple and start with just 2 or 3 most important words.
3. Select the box “Scholarly (Peer Reviewed) Journals” on the left side of the results screen (as shown in the clip to the right) to search only articles from scholarly journals.
4. **Play around with the search terms** you use. If your first try doesn’t get good results, don’t keep browsing through them, try some different search terms.
5. Use the **subject terms** found on the left hand side of the results screen to improve your search
6. Use the **“Cite” button** to the right of the citations to make citing the articles much easier.
7. **Start your research early** so you have time to read and to order any articles that aren’t full-text on EBSCOhost.



For articles not available in full-text on EbscoHost:

1. If the article you want isn’t full-text on EBSCOhost, you should see a link that says “Find Full Text” below or to the left of the article you want to read. Click this link to find out if we have access to the journal through another database subscription.
2. If not owned by Kirkwood, the article may be ordered through InterLibrary Loan. Click on “Request InterLibrary Loan” below or to the left of the article you want to order and follow the on-screen directions. Ordering an article may take anywhere from 2 to 10 days. Interlibrary Loan is a service the Library provides for free to all Kirkwood students and staff.

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