


# Magazines vs. Journals

Articles from magazines and journals are an important information source for researchers. They generally contain more timely, current and up-to-date information than book resources. A savvy researcher will quickly understand that articles from magazines and articles from journals vary significantly in their academic (popular vs. scholarly) usefulness. Your instructor may require that all, or a certain number, of your sources be from scholarly journals, so it is important that you know the difference. Listed below are some comparisons between the two:

	MAGAZINES (Popular)	JOURNALS (Scholarly)
<b>Audience</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>General reading population or specific interest groups</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Academic population or specific scholarly groups</li> </ul>
<b>Purpose</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To inform or entertain the general public or promote a viewpoint</li> <li>Popular, entertainment coverage</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To present original research to the scholarly world</li> <li>Scholarly, academic coverage</li> </ul>
<b>Authors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Journalists, professional writers or freelance writers (generalists)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Researchers, scholars, academics (experts in the discipline)</li> </ul>
<b>Publishers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commercial, often owned as part of a chain</li> <li>Articles reviewed and chosen by an Editorial Board</li> <li>Published weekly or monthly</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>University presses, professional associations, research institutes</li> <li>Articles reviewed and chosen by a panel of experts in the field</li> <li>Published quarterly, monthly or bi-monthly</li> </ul>
<b>Writing Style</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>General populace language</li> <li>Various, often unstructured style formats</li> <li>Sources rarely cited or footnoted</li> <li>Often no formalized research methodology</li> <li>Articles usually a few paragraphs or pages in length</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Professional, technical language</li> <li>Standard style formats (APA, MLA, Turabian, etc.)</li> <li>Sources properly cited</li> <li>Formal research methodology (methods, data, conclusion)</li> <li>Articles usually multiple pages in length (longer than in magazine)</li> </ul>
<b>Graphics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Glossy multi-color photos/graphics</li> <li>Expensive advertising aimed at general public</li> <li>Appeal to the general population</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tables, charts, graphs and figures</li> <li>Few advertisements aimed at learned groups</li> <li>Serious, somber look</li> </ul>
<b>Examples</b>	<p><b>Popular:</b> <i>Rolling Stone, Sports Illustrated, People Weekly, Readers Digest, Psychology Today, Ebony, Cosmopolitan, USA Today, News:</i> (not scholarly) <i>U.S. News &amp; World Report, Time</i></p> <p><b>Opinion:</b> (not scholarly) <i>National Review, Nation, New Republic</i></p> <p><b>Trade Journals:</b> (not scholarly) <i>Automotive News, Architectural Review, Beverage World, Computer World</i></p> 	<p><i>Adolescence, Journal of Abnormal Psychology, Issues in Mental Health Nursing, European History Quarterly, Psychological Bulletin, JAMA: Journal of the American Medical Association, Landscape and Urban Planning, Philosophy of Science, Educational Research, Journal of Paleontology, Music Educators Journal, Journal of Sport Sciences</i></p> 