



# What's the difference?

## Popular and scholarly articles explained

The following chart summarizes the differences between popular and scholarly literature:

	<b>Popular literature</b>	<b>Scholarly literature</b>
<b>Purpose:</b>	Popular publications (also called consumer publications) aim to inform readers about issues of common interest to the general public.	A scholarly publication is one that contains articles written by experts in a particular field of study. Rather than calling this kind of publication a magazine, we commonly use the term JOURNAL.
<b>Characteristics:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Informs or entertains readers, sells products, and/or promote a viewpoint</li> <li>• Audience is the general public</li> <li>• Often contains a lot of graphics, photographs, illustrations</li> <li>• Rarely cites other sources</li> <li>• Written by journalists who may or may not have subject expertise</li> <li>• Written in simple, non-technical language (may be more technical in popular science literature)</li> <li>• Only the editor of the publication reviews submitted articles</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reports on original research, theory, experimentation, and methodology.</li> <li>• Audience includes professors, researchers, college and university students</li> <li>• Assumes readers have an understanding of topic</li> <li>• Often contains charts, graphs and tables</li> <li>• Always cites sources</li> <li>• Written by scholars or researchers in the field</li> <li>• Uses the specialized language of the field</li> <li>• Articles submitted are reviewed by other experts in the field before publication (PEER REVIEWED or REFEREED)</li> </ul>
<b>Examples:</b>	<b>Newspapers:</b> Vancouver Sun, Globe and Mail <b>Magazines:</b> Time, Maclean's, Discover, National Geographic, Scientific American <b>Web sites:</b> business, education, personal	Cell Journal of Cell Biology Nature Science Trends in Cell Biology

### Tools to help distinguish popular & scholarly publications:

Ulrich's Periodical Directory	In Ulrich's, search for the publication title. The "Content Type" field will show <b>Consumer</b>	In Ulrich's, search for the publication title. The "Content Type" field will show <b>Academic / Scholarly</b>
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