

## What about the Internet?

**Always** check with your instructor to see what types of sources are required for your assignment.

Everything you read on the internet is not necessarily true so you will need to closely evaluate sources found on the internet.

Ask yourself these questions when deciding whether or not to use a specific Internet source in your research.

### Currency : The timeliness of the information.

- When was the information published or posted?

### Relevance : The importance of the information for your needs.

- Does the information relate to your topic or answer your question?
- Who is the intended audience?

### Authority : The source of the information.

- Who is the author / publisher / source / sponsor? What are the author's credentials or organizational affiliations?
- Does the URL reveal anything about the author or source? examples: .com .edu .gov .org .net

### Accuracy : The reliability, truthfulness, and correctness of the content.

- Where does the information come from?
- Can you verify any of the information in another source or from personal knowledge?
- Are there spelling, grammar, or typographical errors?

### Purpose : The reason the information exists.

- What is the purpose of the information? Is it to inform, teach, sell, entertain, or persuade?
- Is the information fact, opinion, or propaganda?

**For more information:**

<http://www.blinn.edu/library/use/eval/websites.htm>



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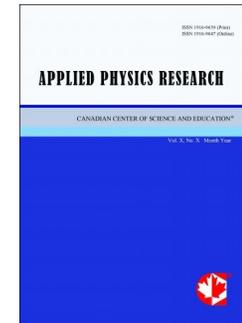
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## Journals VS Magazines Is it Scholarly?



VS



## What is an article?

An article is a piece of writing included in a periodical.

- ◆ Articles come from newspapers, magazines, or journals (collectively called periodicals)
- ◆ Some periodicals are available in print, but they are often available electronically through a database.

## Characteristics of Scholarly Journals

(sometimes called academic or peer-reviewed)

- ◆ Many are published or sponsored by a scholarly society, professional association, or university department
- ◆ Reduced amount of advertising compared to magazines and newspapers
- ◆ Includes peer-reviewed articles. These articles have been reviewed by a select group of scholars and researchers in the same field of study
- ◆ Articles are written in the language of the discipline, and the author assumes the reader has some background knowledge of the discipline



**Examples:** *Journal of Reading, New England Journal of Medicine, Studies in Short Fiction*

## Characteristics of Peer-Reviewed Articles

- ◆ The author's name is always present; often there are multiple authors
- ◆ The author's credentials are stated
- ◆ The title reflects the contents of the article
- ◆ An abstract (summary) precedes the article
- ◆ Content is based on original research or the work of authorities in the field, not personal opinion
- ◆ The sources of information used by the author are cited in references, footnotes, or bibliographies

In addition, a scholarly article *from scientific journal* usually includes the following:

- Introduction or literature review
- Theory or background information
- Statement of subjects discussed
- Methods used
- Results of the study
- Supporting diagrams or illustrations
- Discussion

## Characteristics of Professional and Technical Journals



This purpose of this type of journal is to keep the professional or practitioner up to date in his field of study. Peer-reviewed articles are not usually included. Contents usually include news articles, continuing education information, editorials, organizational news, employment opportunities, and plenty of advertising. Ask your instructor if he/she considers them acceptable for your research.

**Examples:** *Chemical & Engineering News, Aviation Week and Space Technology*

## Characteristics of News/General Interest Magazines

- ◆ Usually published by commercial enterprises or individuals, occasionally by professional organizations
- ◆ Purpose is to provide information to a broad audience of concerned citizens, not just to scholars
- ◆ Language is geared to any educated audience; a specialized vocabulary is not necessary
- ◆ Articles are written by a member of the editorial staff, a scholar, or a freelance writer
- ◆ Authors sometime cite sources, but usually do not
- ◆ Most have an attractive appearance with illustrations and photographs
- ◆ Usually have some advertisements
- ◆ Often have a political slant



**Examples:** *National Geographic, Time, Smithsonian, U. S. News & World Report, Newsweek*

## Characteristics of Popular Magazines

- ◆ Articles are seldom signed
- ◆ Sources are rarely cited - information can be second or third hand, original source may not even be known
- ◆ Articles are usually short with little depth
- ◆ Often published on slick paper, are attractive with a lot of pictures and graphics, and are full of advertisements
- ◆ Published to entertain the reader, sell products, and/or promote a viewpoint



**Examples:** *Ebony, Glamour, Parent's, Reader's Digest, Sports Illustrated, Ladies' Home Journal*

## Characteristics of Newspapers

- ◆ Can be international, national, regional, or city based.
- ◆ Provide information to a broad audience.
- ◆ Articles are written by a member of the editorial staff, a scholar, or a freelance writer
- ◆ Typically cover current events and popular culture
- ◆ Articles are usually short
- ◆ Sources are rarely cited
- ◆ Articles are divided into sections such as "Life", "Sports", "Classifieds", "Politics", "Opinion", "Travel", and so on
- ◆ Published to entertain and inform the reader
- ◆ Usually have advertisements



**Examples:** *New York Times, Washington Post, Houston Chronicle, USA Today*

To find more information about the databases, journals, magazines, and newspapers that Blinn Library subscribes to please visit the following website:

<http://www.blinn.edu/library/find/databases/subjects/index.htm>