Characteristics of Scholarly Journals

- 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 & 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 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*