I need to use scholarly resources. What does that mean?

Popular Magazines

- Printed versions have glossy pages
- Have a lot of advertisements
- Have a lot of pictures
- Published frequently, usually at least once a month
- Often written by journalists
- Written for a general audience
- Articles in them are usually less than 5 pages long
- There are no bibliographies or references
- Examples include Time, Christianity Today, and National Geographic

Scholarly Journals

- Printed versions look very plain. The table of contents is often on the cover.
- Contains only necessary pictures and little to no advertisements
- Usually published less than four times a year
- Articles in them are usually more than 3 pages long
- Written for a specific audience
- Written by experts or researchers
- Articles cite other sources in bibliographies or reference lists
- Examples include Children’s Literature Association Quarterly and Social Problems
- Beware! A periodical title may contain the word “journal” and may not be scholarly!
- Many of the library's databases allow you to limit your searches to scholarly or peer-reviewed journals only. Look on the search screens for the option in EBSCO, Expanded Academic ASAP, and Physical Education Index databases.

Trade Journals

- Are a cross between a popular magazine and a scholarly journal
- Printed versions have glossy pages and pictures and advertisements
- Articles in them are usually less than 5 pages long
- If the contain bibliographies, they are usually short
- Articles are often written by practioners in the field
- Written to help those working in the field stay up-to-date on news and trends
- Examples include Monitor on Psychology and Journal of Accountancy

Questions?

Research Assistance Desk
Benjamin P. Browne Library
Judson University
(847) 628-2038
libraryhelp@judsonu.edu
Scholarly Books

- Are written by researchers or experts in the field they are about
- Are specifically written to add to the body of knowledge about a subject
- Are often, but not always, published by university publishers
- Cite other scholarly sources

Scholarly Websites

- Are written by researchers, experts, or reputable organizations
- Cite or provide links to other scholarly sources
- Have few advertisements
- Do not contain spelling or grammatical errors
- Have been updated within the last year

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