1. What are Scholarly Journals?

- Scholarly journals, also called peer-reviewed, academic, refereed or professional journals, are a major source of information for research papers and projects.
- A scholarly article is one that generally contributes additional knowledge to or demonstrates original research within a particular field. These articles do not report about events, but instead analyze and comment about events.
- Because articles in these journals represent the most recent research performed by scholars and scientists, it is important to consult them in addition to books.

2. Indications of a scholarly article

- **Originality**: Articles tend to focus on reporting original research, analysis, interpretation, or similar activities that communicate new ideas, theories, analysis, or experimental results. Some journals tend to focus on critical reviews of the scholarly or scientific work of a field, including book reviews, reviews of research, and similar critical evaluations of current research or thought in a field.
- **Intended Audience**: Scholarly journals are generally written for a specific audience already familiar with the field. Typically, scholarly journals are written for scientists, physicians, historians, professors, teachers, and other professionals who have a thorough formal training in a discipline. They already know the basics of a field and are looking to learn new and original information.
- **Sponsorship**: Scholarly journals are often sponsored by a professional organization or society such as the American Psychological Association or the Modern Language Association. They reflect the credibility and role of that group in the advancement of knowledge and its reputation for scholarly or scientific advancement.
- **Article format and length**: Scholarly articles tend to include a bibliography and footnotes. A bibliography is a list of the resources (books, articles, studies, etc...) that the author used to write his/her article. You can usually find the bibliography at the end of the article. The articles in scholarly
journals also tend to be longer than those in popular publications. They can often be anywhere from 5 to 40 pages long.

- **Publication Frequency**: Scholarly journals tend to publish on a monthly or quarterly basis. With the exception of a few well known scientific and medical journals, scholarly journals are almost never published weekly.
- **The statement of purpose**: Journals will generally describe their purpose to report on original research or experimentation in order to make such information available to the rest of the scholarly world.

3. **Empirical Research Articles**

- Empirical Research Studies use data derived from actual observation or experiment. Original research papers that describe empirical studies and their results are published in academic journals.

Do scholarly journals always have the word "Journal" in the title?

Not always, but very often they do. And just to keep things confusing, some publications that are not scholarly also have the word "Journal" in the title... like *Ladies’ Home Journal* and *Wall Street Journal*!

Are scholarly articles easy to read?

Not very often. In most cases, the authors use very advanced vocabulary and terms that are used just in their particular subject area. They can be very challenging to read, as you start out. Once you get to know more of the terms and concepts in your subject area, you may find them easier and easier to understand.

Google Scholar?

You can't just Google a topic. You may find some good materials but you won’t get any information about the content of most scholarly journals. Google Scholar helps you to find materials but keep in mind that this is only a starting point for your search.

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