

Scholarly & Popular Articles

How can you tell the difference? Here are some clues to look for:

Scholarly Journal Articles		Popular Magazine Articles
Usually a scholar or researcher with expertise in the subject area; author's credentials and/or affiliation are given.	Author	Author's name may or may not be given; often a professional writer; may or may not have expertise in the subject area.
Other scholars, researchers and students.	Audience	General public; the interested non-specialist.
Specialized terminology or jargon of the field; requires prior knowledge (or a good specialized dictionary!).	Language	Vocabulary in general usage; understandable to most readers.
Articles have a clearly-defined structure with an abstract, objective, methodology, analysis, results and conclusion. May include charts or graphs but rarely photographs or other illustrations.	Appearance / Organization	Informal organization: eye-catching type and formatting. Usually includes illustrations and photographs.
Always has a list of references or bibliography; sources of quotes and facts are cited and can be verified.	References / Bibliography	Rarely has a list of references; usually does not give complete information about sources.