Journals, magazines, and newspapers (periodicals) are important sources for timely research, but it is often difficult to distinguish between the various levels of scholarship. General criteria for recognizing the different types of periodicals are as follows:

**SCHOLARLY JOURNALS**

- Articles are written by a scholar in the field or by someone who has done research in the field
- Articles are peer-reviewed (examined and approved of by other scholars in the field)
- Contain many graphs and charts but few glossy pages or exciting pictures
- Always cite their sources
- The language includes jargon of the discipline covered as it assumes some scholarly background on the part of the reader
- Reports original research or experimentation in order to make such information available

**Examples of Scholarly Journals:**

- *American Economic Review*
- *Archives of Sexual Behavior*
- *JAMA: The Journal of the American Medical Association*

**SUBSTANTIVE NEWS OR GENERAL INTEREST PERIODICALS**

- Articles may be written by a member of the editorial staff, a scholar, or free-lance writer
- Varied formats including newspapers
- Heavily illustrated, generally with photographs
- Sometimes cite sources, but more often do not
- Language is geared to an audience with an interest in the topic, not just to experts in the field
- Main purpose is to provide information, in a general manner, to a broad audience

**Examples of Substantive News or General Interest Periodicals:**

- *Economist*
- *National Geographic*
- *New York Times*
- *Scientific American*
How do I find scholarly (peer-reviewed) articles?

Several databases available through the Ivy Tech library will allow you to limit your search to only retrieve the contents of scholarly journals. Other databases consist entirely of scholarly journal articles.

1. Sign into MyIvy at http://my.ivytech.edu and click on the Library at the left side of the screen to access the Library website.

2. Under Search & Find, click Articles.

3. Choose databases such as EBSCOhost, ProQuest, or JSTOR from the list. JSTOR includes only scholarly journals, but if using EBSCOhost or ProQuest, be sure to check the scholarly/peer-reviewed box on the search page.

Please note that not all materials published in scholarly journals are peer-reviewed. Scholarly journals also contain opinion essays, letters to the editor, book reviews, and other forms of writing which are not suitable substitutes for peer-reviewed articles.