

# Lovejoy Library

## Identifying Scholarly Journals vs. Other Periodicals

### Scholarly Journals

What is a Scholarly Journal?

Scholarly journals are often referred to as *peer-reviewed*, *juried*, or *referred* sources. Respected scholars in their respective disciplines evaluate and certify the quality of the scholarship contained in these journals. The format for scholarly journals varies from discipline to discipline.

### Determining "Scholarly" Sources

Scholarly journals have the following characteristics:

**Footnotes & Endnotes (j1)** indicate information sources quoted by authors, essential to determining article currency and accuracy.

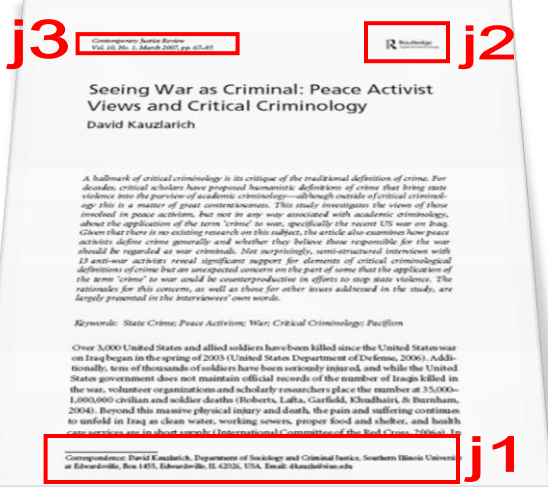
**Bibliographies** contain lists of sources used to research and write articles; they also provide sources for future research.

**Publishers (j2)** for scholarly journals are typically institutions or university presses, and not for-profit companies.

**Date of Publication (j3)** is usually monthly, quarterly, or seasonal dates. Daily or weekly distributions are rare.

**In-depth Coverage** on a given subject or topic means that scholarly journal articles are usually longer than just a few pages.

**Professional Appearance** with skillful use of graphs, tables, and charts may be presented to provide additional data findings, but without magazine-like glossy paper, photographs, and ads.



Examples of scholarly journals at Lovejoy include:  
Art Bulletin • International Nursing Review •  
Journal of Accountancy • Research in Education

### Periodicals

What is a Periodical?

Periodicals (also called *serials*) are regularly issued publications (e.g. journals, popular magazines, newspapers). They present articles ranging from a single column in a newspaper to a multi-page study in a scholarly journal.

### Determining Periodicals

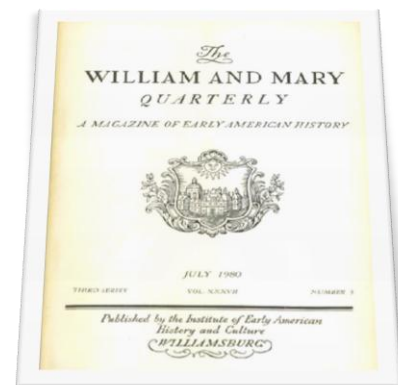
Periodicals have the following characteristics:

**Current** coverage on the latest trends, products, research, theories, and events is made available since periodicals are published frequently.

**Scope** of coverage can be either scholarly, popular, specialized, or general.

**Topical** coverage extends into every field of interest, providing access to hard-to-find information.

**Length** of articles in periodicals is abbreviated, so more topics may be covered within one volume of a periodical than in one book.



Examples of periodicals at Lovejoy include:  
Christian Science Monitor • Economist • Ms. •  
Newsweek • Scientific American • USA Today

# Types of Periodical Literature

*What are the characteristics of Periodical Literature?*

Below are characteristics of different types of periodical literature. Awareness of these differences will help with identifying the most appropriate sources for research. **Note:** This is a general guideline and may not be applicable to a specific periodical.

Several of Lovejoy Library's databases allow users to limit their searches to scholarly articles. Consult *Ulrich's Periodicals Directory* (Ref Z 6941 .U5 2002 v.5), located in the library's Ready Reference section, to determine if a journal is considered scholarly. For more information on how to find periodicals, go to:

[http://www.siu.edu/lovejoylibrary/services/instruction/locate\\_journals\\_io.shtml](http://www.siu.edu/lovejoylibrary/services/instruction/locate_journals_io.shtml)

CRITERIA	SCHOLARLY JOURNALS	NEWS/GENERAL INTEREST	POPULAR MAGAZINES	SENSATIONAL PUBLICATIONS
<b>FORMAT/STYLE:</b>	Serious / Formal	Attractive / Semi-informal	Many visuals / Informal	Newspaper / Various
<b>GRAPHICS:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>graphs</li> <li>tables</li> <li>charts</li> <li>photographs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>photographs</li> <li>graphics</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>photographs</li> <li>illustrations</li> <li>graphics</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>melodramatic photographs</li> </ul>
<b>SOURCES / DOCUMENTATION:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>sources cited <i>always</i></li> <li>footnotes*</li> <li>bibliographies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>sources cited <i>occasionally</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>sources cited <i>rarely</i></li> <li>original sources can be obscure</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>sources <i>not</i> cited <i>*rarely for additional information</i></li> </ul>
<b>AUTHORS / AUDIENCE:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identified</li> <li>Written <i>by</i> scholars or researchers in discipline</li> <li>Written <i>for</i> scholars or researchers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identified</li> <li>Written <i>by</i> staff, scholars, freelance writers, or pros in the field</li> <li>Written <i>for</i> educated, general audience</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not always identified</li> <li>Written <i>by</i> publication's staff or journalists</li> <li>Written <i>for</i> a broad audience</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not always identified</li> <li>Written <i>by</i> publication's staff or freelance writers</li> <li>Written <i>for</i> an impressionable audience</li> </ul>
<b>LANGUAGE:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discipline-specific terminology or jargon</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Appropriate for an educated readership</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Simple</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Simple</li> </ul>
<b>PURPOSE / SCOPE:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Informs</li> <li>Reports</li> <li>Show original research and experiments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides general and / or specialized information</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Entertains or persuades</li> <li>sell products or services - occasionally</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Arouses curiosity by twisting the truth</li> </ul>
<b>PUBLISHERS:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Academic press</li> <li>Professional organization</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Published by commercial enterprises for profit</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commercial / trade organizations for profit.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Published for profit</li> </ul>
<b>ADVERTISEMENTS:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Selective/Rare</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extensive</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Melodramatic</li> </ul>
<b>EXAMPLES:</b>	<i>Art Bulletin; Research in Education; Shakespeare Quarterly; Politics and Society; Economic Journal</i>	<i>Christian Science Monitor; Economist; Scientific American; Anthropology Today</i>	<i>People Weekly; Newsweek; National Geographic; Ms.; Psychology Today</i>	<i>Star; National Enquirer; Globe</i>

For additional assistance contact Lydia Jackson, Instruction Librarian ([ljacks@siue.edu](mailto:ljacks@siue.edu) or 618-650-2604)

