



QUICK TIPS: SCHOLARLY ARTICLES AND BOOKS

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Characteristics of Scholarly and Scientific Articles

Scholarly and scientific articles generally are distinguished from newspaper and popular magazine articles by the following characteristics:

- They are generally found in peer-reviewed journals
- They contain explicit documentation of their information sources
- They are written by subject experts.
- They address issues of concern to the discipline in which they are written.

Characteristics of Scholarly and Scientific Books

Scholarly and scientific books are distinguished from popular books on the same subjects by the following characteristics

- They are generally published by publishers who specialize in scholarly and/or scientific writing (or contain a publishing division which does).
- They contain explicit documentation of their information sources.
- They are written by experts and addressed to scholarly or scientific audiences (check the introduction or preface to see who is being addressed).
- They address issues of concern to the discipline in which they are written.

Keep in mind that it is not enough to know that an article or book is written by a subject expert. Experts also write newspaper and popular magazine articles.

If You Are Not Sure

Check with either a librarian or your professor if you are not sure whether an article or book can be considered scholarly or scientific. The easiest way to get help from a librarian is to go to the reference desk at the library.