**Scholarly or Popular:**
How can I tell the difference?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic Publications</th>
<th>Popular Publications</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Purpose is to share research and academic discussion among professionals within disciplines</td>
<td>Purpose is to inform and entertain the general public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Written by professionals, scholars, experts</td>
<td>Written by author without academic credentials</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Written in a technical language</td>
<td>Written in non-technical language</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Scholarly (or Academic) Journals**
- Peer-reviewed, refereed
- In-depth, original research
- Often lengthy
- Dense text with fewer, more specialized ads—may include graphs, tables, and charts
- Includes bibliographies or references
- Usually published quarterly or biannually; available by subscription
- May be published by a professional organization

**Examples:**
- **Journals:**
  - American Journal of Education
  - American Journal of Sociology
  - JAMA: The Journal of the American Medical Association
- **Databases:**
  - JSTOR
  - ProQuest Nursing and Allied Health Source
  - Psychology and Behavioral Sciences Collection (select peer reviewed)

**Scholarly (or Academic) Books**
- Often published by an academic press such as Harvard or Oxford
- Includes an index
- Includes a bibliography and/or footnotes/endnotes

**Popular Publications**
- Editors determine what is printed
- News, entertainment, general interest
- Shorter length
- Aimed at the consumer—glossy, colorful, attractive, lots of ads
- Does not include bibliographies
- Issued daily, weekly, or monthly; available at newsstands
- Usually published by a for-profit company

**Examples:**
- **Magazines:**
  - American History
  - Health
  - Psychology Today
  - Scientific American
  - Parents
  - Time
- **Databases:**
  - Nexis Uni
  - MasterFILE Premier
  - ProQuest Research Library

**Popular Books**
- Usually published by a for-profit company
- May not include an index
- Often does not credit sources

Trade, or professional, periodicals are neither scholarly nor popular. They allow practitioners (such as educators or business people) to share information in their field. An example is Missouri School Music.

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