

comparing magazines & journals

what are magazines? what are journals?

Popular magazines and scholarly or technical journals differ in many ways. The following points will help you to determine whether a particular title is a magazine or a journal.

popular magazines

- **Purpose** Articles are written to inform or entertain
- **Audience** General readership, mass audience
- **Style** Non-technical language
- **Authors** Magazine staff or freelance writers
- **Publisher** Published commercially
- **Advertising** Various products and services
- **Citations** Most sources are not fully cited
- **Review Policy** Reviewed by an editor

Some examples of popular magazines are *Newsweek*, *Time*, *People*, and *Rolling Stone*.

scholarly/technical journals

- **Purpose** Academic or scientific research articles and information
- **Audience** Specialized readers, scholars or professionals in the field
- **Style** Technical, specialized terminology
- **Authors** Professionals in the field
- **Publisher** Published by an association, academic institution or professional organization
- **Advertising** Little or no advertising; subject specific
- **Citations** Sources are cited through footnotes and bibliographies
- **Review Policy** Reviewed by a panel of peers

Some examples of scholarly or technical journals are *Journal of the American Medical Association*, *Journal of Vacation Marketing*, and *Seminars of Nuclear Medicine*.