

What are Periodicals?

Periodicals are published on a regular basis - daily, weekly, biweekly, monthly, bimonthly, quarterly, yearly, etc. The information in periodicals covers a wide variety of topics and is very up-to-date.

There are two basic types of periodicals:

POPULAR

*Popular periodicals include **magazines** and **newspapers**. The published articles are usually written by staff writers and chosen by the editor of the publication.*

Magazine articles are usually shorter, written in non-technical language, and designed for the general population.

*Newspaper articles are short and written in non-technical language. They also provide a first-hand account of an event and so are a **primary** source.*

SCHOLARLY

***Journals** are written by experts in a field or by scholars. The articles are usually longer and may contain charts, graphs, statistics, etc., as well as extensive bibliographies. The articles usually involve extensive research and in-depth studies. The writing style is more complex and the language may be technical.*

There are several types of journals:

- 1) **Academic journals** are usually written by college or university faculty or administrators. These journals may be published at a university press.*
- 2) **Professional journals** are usually written by and for members of a particular profession, such as lawyers, doctors, business persons, etc.*
- 3) **Refereed, "juried," or peer reviewed journals** tend to be academic and scholarly and may be professional journals. In a refereed journal, the articles are reviewed by a panel of one or more specialists (or peers in the field) who determine whether the article is accurate and appropriate for publication. This panel's opinions and decisions are more important than those of the editor and so the panel determines what is published.*

Source:

Bolner, Myrtle S. and Gayle A. Poirier. The Research Process: Books and Beyond. Rev. ed. Dubuque, Iowa: Kendall/Hunt, 1997. 154.