

JOURNALS AND MAGAZINES, Part 1

<p>What is a Journal?</p> <p>A JOURNAL is a periodical that only publishes articles after they have passed a rigorous editing and review process, called the “blind review” or “peer review.” Journals following this procedure are also known as “refereed” or sometimes “vetted” journals. Articles under consideration have the author’s name removed and are submitted to other experts in that subject field, who evaluate the content, accuracy, and importance of the article, and provide their criticisms and comments. If the article passes the review, it is returned to the author for revisions, after which it may be published. Journals may also be called “academic journals,” “scholarly journals,” “research journals,” or “scholarly research journals.”</p>	<p>What is a Magazine?</p> <p>MAGAZINES are the periodicals that most people are familiar with, and are often called “consumer,” “popular,” or “mass market” periodicals. These are the periodicals you see at the supermarket, the drugstore, or the newsstand. Many people subscribe to magazines. Magazines are useful for news and trends, for information that is very current and up to date. Magazines also will often report on the findings of researchers and scientists, which were originally published in journals, but the articles in the magazines will be much easier to read. Magazines are often fairly inexpensive, and many are considered a form of entertainment rather than a source of information.</p>
CITATIONS	
<p>All JOURNAL articles provide citations to the sources of information the author used as a basis for research and to write the article. Citations may appear as footnotes or at the end of the article as “Bibliography,” “Works Cited,” or “References.”</p>	<p>Most MAGAZINE articles do not provide citations to their sources of information. Articles may refer to the original researcher by name, or may only indicate where the research was done. For example, the article may state, “Researchers at Johns Hopkins have found that ... “</p>
LENGTH	
<p>Most JOURNAL articles are lengthy, and assume a certain degree of knowledge on the part of the reader. Specialized terminology may be used. Statistical tests used will not be explained; only their significance and conclusions drawn from the tests will be discussed.</p>	<p>Most MAGAZINE articles are short, and the language is usually simple to understand. As a general rule, magazine articles are written to accommodate a sixth to ninth grade reading level. Most articles are continued through several pages, to give the reader more exposure to the advertisements.</p>
AUTHORS	
<p>Most JOURNALS will provide a sidebar or footnote, or a separate section, with information about the author’s credentials as a scholar, researcher, or professional. Or, the author’s university or research institute is given.</p>	<p>In MAGAZINE articles, many times the author’s name is not given. If the author is listed, usually the author is a journalist, not a scholar or researcher. However, many journalists specialize in certain subjects and are quite knowledgeable.</p>
SPONSOR	
<p>Most JOURNALS are published by, or sponsored by, a university, research lab, professional association, or a non-profit organization.</p>	<p>Most MAGAZINES are published by for-profit organizations or businesses. Many magazine publishers are part of large media corporations.</p>

JOURNALS AND MAGAZINES, Part 2

EDITORS		
Most JOURNALS will have a section near the front or the back of each issue that lists their editorial board and the reviewers, with the professional affiliation of each member. Many will also include submission guidelines, which will indicate how rigorous the review process is.	Editors of MAGAZINES are comparable to business managers. Each magazine will have its own standards for grammar, usage, and spelling. Selection of articles to publish is influenced by fads, trends, or by the major advertisers to the magazine.	
ADVERTISEMENTS		
Generally, JOURNALS do not accept advertisements. Revenue to support publication is from the SPONSOR, and from subscription fees. Journals are often very expensive. If there are advertisements, they will usually be for other scholarly publications, or for conference announcements.	All MAGAZINES accept advertisements. This is how they make a profit and stay in business. Many times it may be difficult to distinguish the ads from the articles. Also, many magazines have special theme issues, and they will notify advertisers in advance. So, you may often notice that the ads and the articles seem to agree.	
TITLE OF THE PERIODICAL		
Some may have the word “journal,” “review,” “bulletin,” or “research” in their title. However, this is the least reliable way to determine if the periodical is a research journal or not.	Titles of MAGAZINES are selected to be attention getting. Many magazines are famous, or have a known reputation or notoriety.	
BIAS		
Most JOURNALS are careful to avoid bias. However, be aware that some non-profit organizations or “think tanks” have explicit political or social agendas, which may be reflected in the articles published.	Many MAGAZINES are known for their social or political bias. If you are not familiar with the magazine, read the articles critically. Look for alternative views in other magazines or in journals.	
AUDIENCE		
JOURNALS are read by students, professionals, scholars, instructors and faculty, and other researchers. Within each profession or subject field, there is usually a group of “core” journals considered essential reading by all those in the profession or field of study.	MAGAZINES are read by everyone: workers, householders, students, children, hobbyists, sports enthusiasts, etc. There is a magazine for almost every possible human interest.	
WHAT ABOUT NEWSPAPERS?		
NEWSPAPER articles tend to be short and report one fact, event, or recent change. A few major newspapers may offer more “in-depth” reporting. Some are known for their bias. Read newspaper articles about political or social issues carefully and critically. Editorials are solely the editor’s opinion, but can be helpful for finding pro/con arguments.	WHAT ABOUT the INTERNET?	
	INTERNET sources can be “here today – gone tomorrow.” Many sites are an expression of personal bias, an excuse to advertise a product, or just plain phony. The criteria listed here can be used to judge the worth of a website. Who is the target audience, how long are the articles, are there citations to sources? Are there any ads? Look for the date, the author, editor, or sponsor.	