



William M. Brish Library
Hagerstown Community College
(240) 500-2237
<http://www.hagerstowncc.edu/library>

Tips for Identifying Scholarly and Professional Journals

Journal articles are one of the best sources of information to use when researching and writing a term or research paper. Professors, scholars, and other researchers express their ideas and publish recent research findings in professional and scholarly journals. Because the latest and most relevant information is found in scholarly and professional journals it is best to use these sources.

Listed below are several characteristics of scholarly and professional journals. When you evaluate a journal or a magazine, keep in mind that **not all scholarly and professional journals exhibit every characteristic.**

The journal is usually published by an association, research center, or a university.

The tone and outlook of the journal is serious and scholarly.

The word journal, annals, or society is often (but not always) found in the journal title.

The journal title (or subtitle) indicates that it deals with a well-defined subject.

The journal should contain a list of its editorial board members and their institutional affiliation.

The articles usually contain abstracts or brief summaries of the article.

The institutional affiliation of the author should be listed.

The journal contains few or no advertisements.

Articles contain a list of cited references at the end of the article or at the bottom of each page.