



TYPES OF PERIODICALS

A periodical (also called a serial) is a publication that comes out at intervals (or serially) – daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly, etc. Magazines, journals and newspapers are all periodicals. The following chart shows the differences among periodicals:

	MAGAZINES	SCHOLARLY JOURNALS	NEWSPAPERS
ADVERTISING	popular products	few advertisements	popular products
AUDIENCE	general public	academic, students	general public
AUTHOR	staff or popular writer	academic researcher/writer	journalist
CONTENT	general information	research findings & ideas	news & information
FREQUENCY	weekly or monthly	(bi)monthly or quarterly	daily or weekly
LENGTH	usually fairly short	long	short
READING LEVEL	high school or lower	undergraduate to graduate	high school or lower
REFERENCES	none or minimal	fully documented	none or minimal
TITLE WORDS	magazine, weekly	journal, report, quarterly	herald, register, tribune
EXAMPLES	<i>People, Time</i>	<i>Childhood Education</i>	<i>New York Times</i>

Journals can also be divided by type – trade & refereed, for example. The following chart explains the differences between trade journals and refereed journals:

	TRADE JOURNALS	REFEREED JOURNALS
ADVERTISING	trade products	few advertisements
AUDIENCE	professionals	academics, students
AUTHOR	expert in the field or occupation	academic researcher/writer
CONTENT	targeted to occupational audience	evaluated by peers prior to publication
READING LEVEL	high school to college	undergraduate to graduate
REFERENCES	some, not consistent	fully documented
EXAMPLES	<i>Black Enterprise</i>	<i>Veterinary Medicine</i>

REFEREED OR PEER-REVIEWED JOURNALS

Refereed or peer-reviewed literature is the name given to journals that publish scholarly articles that have been anonymously read and critically reviewed by other scholars knowledgeable on the topic of the article. The editor of such a journal receives articles submitted for publication and sends them to two to four scholars with established reputations in the discipline of the article. These reviewers are typically asked to comment on the scholarly merit of the paper, its technical quality and practical significance. They will also comment on the quality of the writing, clarity of the illustrations and justification for the conclusions. Finally, the reviewer will be asked to state whether the paper should be published “as is”, published with minor modifications, published after major modifications or rejected. Most authors are asked to make at least minor modifications to their original manuscripts. The quality of the journal is judged by the rigor of the review process conducted by its editor.

TYPES OF PERIODICALS: GENERAL DEFINITIONS

MAGAZINES: The articles in popular magazines such as *People* or *Time* contain information written for the general public. These sources may be appropriate to use in an academic paper **depending on your topic, focus and assignment requirements**. Magazines can be useful for introductory reading about your topic or for collecting fast facts.

NEWSPAPERS: The articles in newspapers provide a journalistic perspective on a specific time and place. Reliable news stories are based on eye-witness' perceptions of what happened.

REFEREED JOURNALS: The articles published in refereed journals are controlled by an editorial board that follows a formal process of peer review by experts in the subject area covered. The information, therefore, has a high level of quality, credibility and reliability.

SCHOLARLY JOURNALS: The articles in scholarly journals involve research and are often longer than those in popular magazines. They may or may not be peer-reviewed before publication. Journals with fully-documented references are more scholarly than those that do not include a bibliography or a list of references.

TRADE JOURNALS: The articles in trade journals specialize in news and information for professionals in a certain occupation. They are a credible source if written by experts with deep knowledge of the subject area.