Peer-Reviewed or Academic Journals

What are Peer-Reviewed Journals?

Peer-reviewed journals contain articles that are written by people who are highly knowledgeable in their respective fields (often substantiated by a higher degree or significant professional experience) and undergo impartial, peer-review by fellow experts before they are published. This review ensures that the information the journal publishes is accurate and valid and generally upholds a high standard of quality for the journal.

What is the difference between academic journals and peer-reviewed journals?

Academic or scholarly journals are not necessarily peer-reviewed, although most articles within these journals are. All three (peer-reviewed, academic, and scholarly journals) are generally considered trustworthy and authoritative research sources, but if your project demands that your sources be peer-reviewed, double check in the journal description or its website to ensure that it fulfills your requirements.

Why should I do research from these journals?

Scholarly and peer-reviewed journals will be a tremendous asset to your research needs. Information you will find in these sources is directly traceable to an author or trusted organization, is based upon fact rather than opinion, and has usually been verified by third-parties, and is therefore credible and reliable.

How will I know if a source is peer-reviewed?

In most instances, you will be able to go into Advanced Search within the database and check off the box that says “Peer Reviewed.” If you do not see this box, check the article abstract or the journal description to ensure that the information you have found is, in fact, peer-reviewed. If you are still not sure, drop by the reference desk and we will do our best to help you.