Types of Periodicals: What’s the difference?
Scholarly Journals vs. Popular Magazines

How long are the articles?

**Scholarly:** Usually longer articles with in-depth analysis of topic  
**Popular:** Shorter articles with broad overview of topic

What about the author(s)?

**Scholarly:** Expert in a particular field; name/credentials always included  
**Popular:** Journalist or staff writer; name and credentials often not included

Who’s the target audience?

**Scholarly:** Written for researchers, professionals in the field, and students  
**Popular:** Written in non-technical language; easily understood by most people

What about the layout?

**Scholarly:** Mostly text; may have statistics, charts, graphs and supporting illustrations  
**Popular:** Glossy color photos, lots of advertising

Other clues…

**Scholarly:** Works Cited or Reference list and/or footnotes provided  
**Popular:** Bibliography (Works Cited list) usually not provided

√ **Ask a librarian** for assistance!  
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