# What is a scholarly journal?

[Start transcript]

**Scholarly Journal man:** 'HEY, you aren’t one of us!‘

**Magazine lady:** What? Why??

**Scholarly Journal man:** Have you not read the sign?

**Magazine lady:** I still don’t get it?

**Scholarly Journal man:** Hmm, I suppose you don’t know who we are. We‘re a group of journals committed to research and advancing knowledge in our fields. It takes a lot of work to become one of us. You’re in a different club. Popular magazines are written to entertain and focus on current events.

**Magazine lady:** Do you mean the one that says Trade/Professionals?

**Scholarly Journal man:** Our trade / professional journal friends over there are an interesting bunch. They are journals focused on a specific industry, trade or business, such as architecture, marketing or plumbing. They are great for information on trends, developments, products and services. And then there is our newspaper friends who deliver daily news and current events. The club you want is next door.

**Magazine lady:** I still don’t get what makes you so special?

**Scholarly Journal man:** In our club, journal articles are written by experts such as academics. Students love using us because their lecturers sometimes ask them only to use peer reviewed or scholarly journals. Our articles have been reviewed by experts before being accepted for publication. Our work is reliable and high quality! We’re used by students to get better marks in their assignments.

**Magazine lady:** Oh wow! How do students find you?

**Scholarly Journal man:** Students can find peer reviewed or scholarly articles by looking for peer-reviewed or scholarly as a filter option in a library search tool or database. We are all very similar. You can spot one of us by some key features of our articles. Our content is structured. We usually have: An abstract. An introduction, a literature review, methods, results, a conclusion, and references. The author’s credentials are mentioned. We’re written with vocabulary unique to a subject area and we’re unbiased in our point of view. It’s not always obvious if an article is scholarly or peer reviewed. If in doubt, ASK La Trobe.

[End transcript]