Peer-Reviewed Articles

Peer-reviewed, sometimes called refereed, articles are those that are critiqued by experts in the field before they are published in a journal.

How do you know if an article is peer reviewed?

**Articles that ARE NOT peer-reviewed**

- Items targeting the general public (news, magazines).
- Trade/Professional publications (targeting those working in a field) have articles about issues related to working in the field – these are not peer reviewed (also often have at most a few references).
- Some scholarly journals are *editor-reviewed* rather than peer-reviewed. This means only an editor critiques submissions.
- Refereed journals may publish news and other general items that are not peer-reviewed.

*Note that the above items may still contain valuable information. The difference between them and refereed articles are that they are not as intensely critiqued before publication.*

**Database limit options**

- Some databases have limits for peer-reviewed. This is helpful, but *use with caution* as some results may be more news/general article items from peer-reviewed journals.
- A *journal* or *article* limit in a database is *not* the same as a peer-review limit.

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**How to tell FOR SURE**

- Examine the journal’s OFFICIAL web site to determine if it is a peer-reviewed title. Be careful – items with similar titles or those with one-word titles may present a challenge.
- *UlrichsWeb*, a database with information about periodicals, indicates if an item is peer-reviewed.
- When in doubt about an item’s status, don’t hesitate to ask your librarian or professor.