



## Distinguishing Scholarly Information: Scholarly, Substantive and Popular

Journals and magazines are important sources for current, up-to-date information in all disciplines. Often it may appear to be difficult to distinguish between the various levels of scholarship found in many journal collections. This guide will help differentiate the criteria for journal literature.

**Definitions:** According to the *Webster's Third International Dictionary*:

*Scholarly* is defined as:

- 1) concerned with academic study, especially research,
- 2) exhibiting the methods and attitudes of a scholar, and
- 3) having the manner and appearance of a scholar.

*Substantive* is defined as having a solid base, being substantial.

*Popular* means fit for, or reflecting the taste and intelligence of, the people at large.

### Examples of Scholarly Journals:

*African American Review*

*American Economic Review*

*Journal of Academic Librarianship*

*JAMA: The Journal of the American Medical Association*

*JASIS: American Society for Information Science and Technology Journal*

*American Archivist*

*Library Journal*

*Library Quarterly*

### Examples of Substantive Periodicals:

*National Geographic*

*New York Times*

*Scientific American*

*Library Hotline*

### Examples of Popular Periodicals:

*Ebony*

*Time*

*Vogue*

*Archival Outlook*

*Readers Digest*

*American Libraries*

*The New Library Scene*