

Types of Periodicals

	Scholarly & Research Journals	Professional, Trade & Industry Journals	Journals of Commentary & Opinion	News & Newspapers	Popular Magazines
Examples	<i>American Historical Review</i> <i>Journal of Educational Research</i> <i>Plasma Physics</i> <i>Social Psychology</i>	<i>RN, Science Teacher</i> <i>Advertising Age</i> <i>American Libraries</i> <i>Automotive News</i>	<i>Mother Jones</i> <i>National Review, Atlantic</i> <i>New Republic;</i> <i>Progressive</i>	<i>Time, Newsweek;</i> <i>New York Times</i> <i>Washington Post</i> <i>Christian Science Monitor</i> <i>Wall Street Journal</i>	<i>People Weekly</i> <i>Sports Illustrated,</i> <i>Rolling Stone,</i> <i>Readers Digest</i> <i>Money, Parents</i>
Purpose, Value & Uses	Reports original research; Articles include methodology, hypothesis In depth analysis of issues related to the discipline; Academic level book reviews; Refereed or peer-reviewed	Current trends, news & products in a field, practical advice; Company, organiz'l, & biographical information; Statistics, forecasts; Employ. & career information; Book & product reviews; often newspaper format	Commentaries on social & political issues; Some in-depth analysis; Political viewpoints, liberal, conservative & other; Sometimes acts as voice of activist organization; Speeches & interviews; Book reviews	Current information; Hard news; Local and regional information; Classified ads; Editorials; Speeches; Book reviews; Primary source for information on events	Main purpose: sell & entertain; Primary source for analysis of popular culture; Short articles - 2 nd or 3 rd hand info.; Generally not much depth; Interviews
Language	Academic; Can be very technical; Uses the language of the discipline	Written for practitioners knowledgeable of field, industry; can be technical	Written for a general educated audience	Written for a general educated audience	Non-technical language written at basic level for general public
Authors	Researchers, academics, professors, scholars, etc.	Practitioners in the field; journalists with subject expertise; members of sponsoring organizations	Extremely variable; Can be academics, journalists, representatives of various "groups"	Journalists	Generally, journalists and freelance writers
Sources	Footnotes and bibliographies, Often very extensive documentation	Occasional brief bibliographies; Sources sometimes cited in text	Occasionally cite sources in text or provide short bibliographies	Rarely cite any sources in full	Rarely cite any sources
Publisher	Universities, scholarly presses or academic/research organizations	Commercial publishers or professional and trade associations	Commercial publishers or non-profit organizations	Commercial publishers	Commercial publishers
Graphics	Graphs, charts, formulas, depending on the discipline; No glossy ads here at all	Photographs, charts, tables, illustrations of all sorts; Sometimes glossy ads	Wide variety of appearances; Some very plain, others lots of gloss	Pictures, charts, ads of all sorts	Very glossy; Full of color ads of all sorts
Access Tools <i>Ask a Librarian for further details!</i>	Interdisciplinary & specialized indexes – <i>JSTOR</i> , <i>Expanded Academic</i> , <i>Art Index</i> , <i>MLA</i> , <i>Sociological Abstracts</i> , <i>PsycINFO</i> , <i>Medline</i> , <i>ERIC</i> , <i>EconLit</i>	Business indexes: <i>ABI-Inform</i> , <i>Lexis-Nexis</i> or subject indexes. Often same indexes used for scholarly journals - <i>PsycINFO</i> , <i>ERIC</i>	<i>OneFile</i> , <i>AltPress Index</i> , <i>Readers Guide Retrospective</i> , <i>Readers Guide to Periodical Literature</i> ; <i>PAIS</i>	<i>ProQuest Newspapers</i> , <i>Lexis-Nexis</i> , <i>Ethnic News Watch</i> , individual print paper indexes – New York Times, Wall St. Journal Index.	<i>OneFile</i> , <i>ProQuest PA Research II</i> , <i>Readers Guide Retrospective</i> ; <i>Readers Guide to Periodical Literature</i>

For more information on evaluating types of periodicals consult:

Magazines for Libraries. PN4832 .M34

Ulrich's International Periodicals Directory. Main and Science Ref Z6941 .U5

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