

IDENTIFYING PEER-REVIEWED JOURNALS

Do you ever wonder how you can tell whether a journal is peer-reviewed or scholarly? In this tutorial, I'll show you how identify peer-reviewed journals using tools from the Laurier Library.

Peer-reviewed journals publish articles that have been evaluated by experts before publication. There are several methods you can use to identify these kinds of journals.

One method to identify peer-reviewed journals is by limiting your search results. Many databases let you limit your results to only peer-reviewed journals by the use of a check-box before you search.

For example, in the EBSCO database, the Peer-Reviewed check box is checked. It's found at the left side of the page under the search boxes.

Note that sometimes the terms “academic” or “scholarly” are used to denote peer-reviewed journals.

The ProQuest database uses a similar method.

There may be times however, when it is important to identify if a journal is peer-reviewed using different tools than those found in a database.

For example if you are reviewing research listed in a bibliography of a book or research paper, you may come across references to publications that are unfamiliar to you, and you'd like to know if they are peer-reviewed or not.

It's not immediately apparent by looking at references sometimes if they are articles in peer-reviewed journals.

If you are still uncertain, there are two additional techniques you could use to determine if a journal is peer-reviewed or not:

1. Visit the journal website
2. Use the Ulrichsweb Global Serials Directory database

VISIT THE JOURNAL WEBSITE

Many scholarly journals will indicate on their website if the journal in question is scholarly.

They may also indicate information about the peer-review process itself.

USE THE ULRICHSWEB GLOBAL SERIALS DIRECTORY DATABASE

If you are unable to find information on the journal's website, you could also try the Ulrichsweb database.

To access Ulrichsweb, start at the library homepage and type "Ulrichsweb" in the search box at the top right of the page. Select the first result that appears.

Then click "Connect to resource."

Type the title of the journal in the Ulrichsweb search box then click the search magnifying glass icon.

Peer reviewed journals are indicated in the results by the "referee shirt" icon.

If you have any questions, ask us at library.wlu.ca/help/askus.