



## Columbia Bible College Library Library Resource Guides

# Finding peer-reviewed or scholarly journal articles

Website: <http://www.columbiabc.edu/library/>  
Click: RESEARCH GUIDES

### What is a peer-reviewed article?

Articles in popular magazines such as *Times*, *Christianity Today*, *Psychology Today* or in newspapers are written by reporters for a general audience and are NOT considered peer-reviewed. A publication is considered to be **peer reviewed** if its articles go through an official editorial process that involves review and approval by the author's peers (people who are experts in the same subject area. Sometimes the term "refereed" is used instead of peer review. Peer-reviewed articles are usually more in-depth in their coverage of a topic and cite sources used (footnotes, references lists, etc.). These articles have more high quality academic information than articles from magazines or newspapers, and better quality information than that found on ordinary Web pages. Examples of peer-reviewed journals include:

Church History  
Journal of Abnormal Psychology  
Journal of Psychology and Theology  
Mennonite Quarterly Review

### What is a scholarly article?

A publication is considered to be **scholarly** if it is authored by academics for a target audience that is mainly academic, the printed format isn't usually a glossy magazine, and it is published by a recognized society with academic goals and missions. Most (but not all) scholarly publications are peer reviewed. The difference between a "peer-reviewed" article and a "scholarly" article is that an article in a scholarly publication may not be "refereed".

A journal article from a scholarly publication is generally acceptable for use in your research papers at Columbia. For *Psychology* courses at Columbia, please consult with your course instructor as to his/her policy concerning the inclusion of scholarly (not necessarily peer-reviewed) publications.

### Finding Articles in peer-reviewed journals:

To help determine if a particular journal is peer-reviewed:

- 1) refer to the journal itself (either to an individual issue of the journal or to the publisher's web site). If you are evaluating a journal article, check if any information is given about the author's credentials, the journal, such as the sponsoring association, etc., and it's editorial board. Look to see if the guidelines for submitting manuscripts are clearly stated and if submissions are refereed or if the journal only publishes solicited articles.

- 2) many article databases allow you to limit your search to articles appearing in peer reviewed journals only.

For example, searching for articles in various **EbscoHost Databases**:

EBSCO Research Databases

Basic Search | Advanced Search | Choose Databases | Select another EBSCO service

Sign In to My EBSCOhost | Keyword | Images

Database: MasterFILE Premier; Health Source: Nursing/Academic Edition

Find:  Search

Search Tips

Refine Search | Results

Limit your results:

Full Text

Peer Reviewed

Publication

Published Date: Month  Yr:  to Month  Yr:

To find articles from *peer-reviewed journals*, use the peer-reviewed check box in the “refine search” tab below the search boxes.

To limit a search to a peer reviewed document in **PsycINFO** at *Trinity Western University Library* or at the *University College of the Fraser Valley*:

1. Click on **Advanced Search**
2. On the first line, choose the **Keywords** field and enter your search terms in the search box
3. On the second line, choose the **Publication Type** field and insert the phrase *peer reviewed journal* in the search box
4. Click on **SEARCH**

For example, searching for articles in the **Proquest Religion Database**:

ProQuest

Basic Search | Advanced Search | Publication Search | Marked List : 0

Databases selected: ProQuest Religion

Advanced Search

Citation

AND  Citation

AND  Citation

Add a row | Remove a row

Date range: All dates

Limit results to:  Full text articles only  Scholarly journals, including peer-reviewed

Use the check box to “show articles from scholarly journals, including peer-reviewed” on the search screen to limit your search to articles from peer-reviewed journal only.

3) Or check other lists such as:

a) **Psychology and Behavioral Sciences Collection Database Coverage List** at [http://www.epnet.com/TitleLists/html/pb\\_h1.htm](http://www.epnet.com/TitleLists/html/pb_h1.htm)

<i>Psychology &amp; Behavioral Sciences Collection</i> Database Coverage List							
<b>Format:</b> Online							
558 = Total number of periodicals indexed and abstracted (533 are peer-reviewed) 557 = Total number of periodicals in full text (532 are peer-reviewed)							
*Indicates that this publication was recently added to the database and therefore few or no articles are currently available. **Full Text refers to text only, and/or text with graphics, and/or full page image coverage.							
<b>Please Note:</b> Publications included on this database are subject to change without notice due to contractual agreements with publishers. Coverage dates shown are the intended dates only and may not yet match those on the product. A small number of titles are not available through some delivery systems due to publisher restriction in distribution. The numbers given at the top of this list reflect all titles, active and ceased. All coverage is cumulative. Due to third party ownership of full text, EBSCO Publishing is dependent on publisher publication schedules (and in some cases embargo periods) in order to produce full text on its products.							
ISSN	Publication Name	Publisher	Indexing and Abstracting	Full Text**	Full Text Dela	Peer-Reviewe	PDF Images (full)
0001-	<b>Acta Neurologica Scandinavica</b>	Blackwell Publishing Limited		01/01/00 to	01/01/00 to		
0001-	<b>Acta Oto-Laryngologica</b>	Taylor & Francis Ltd		05/21/98 to	05/21/98 to	yes	

Scroll down the list for publication name and it will indicate if it's peer-reviewed.

b) **Academic Search Premier Database Coverage List** at [http://www.epnet.com/TitleLists/html/ap\\_h1.htm](http://www.epnet.com/TitleLists/html/ap_h1.htm)

<i>Academic Search Premier</i> Database Coverage List							
<b>Format:</b> Online							
7888 = Total number of periodicals indexed and abstracted (6654 are peer-reviewed) 4455 = Total number of periodicals in full text (3515 are peer-reviewed)							
*Indicates that this publication was recently added to the database and therefore few or no articles are currently available. **Indicates that this publication is part of a backfile expansion project and therefore the complete backfile is not yet available. **Full Text refers to text only, and/or text with graphics, and/or full page image coverage.							
<b>Please Note:</b> Publications included on this database are subject to change without notice due to contractual agreements with publishers. Coverage dates shown are the intended dates only and may not match those on the product. A small number of titles are not available through some delivery systems due to publisher restriction in distribution. The numbers given at the top of this list reflect all titles, active and ceased. All coverage is cumulative. Due to third party ownership of full text, EBSCO Publishing is dependent on publisher publication schedules (and in some cases embargo periods) in order to produce full text on its products.							
ISSN	Publication Name	Publisher	Indexing and Abstracting	Full Text**	Full Text Dela	Peer-Reviewe	PDF Image (full)
0148-	<b>19th Century Music</b>	University of California Press		01/01/1933 to present	07/01/2000 to		
0743-	<b>AAC: Augmentative &amp; Alternative</b>	Taylor & Francis Ltd		01/01/2001 to present		yes	
1079-	<b>AACN Clinical Issues Advanced Practice in</b>	Lippincott Williams & Wilkins		01/01/2002 to		✓	

Scroll down the list for publication name and it will indicate if it's peer-reviewed

**When in doubt about the scholarship of an article or journal, please ask the librarian for assistance.**