



## Summary of Characteristics: Definitions

### Magazine\*:

A popular interest **periodical**, variety of topics, various authors in a non-scholarly style, heavily illustrated, advertising, short articles, frequently unsigned, no bibliography, list of references for further reading.

### Journal\*:

A **periodical** for original research and/or commentary on current developments in a specific discipline or field of study, written by researcher (him/ their selves), includes citations in the bibliography or references, abstract at beginning summarizes key points of content, peer-reviewed, scholars use to keep informed.

### Periodical\*:

A publication with its own distinctive title, containing articles, stories, or other short works usually written by different contributors, issued in softcover more than once, usually at regular stated intervals without prior decision as to when the final issue will appear. Although each issue is complete in itself, its relationship to preceding issues is indicated by an issue number and volume number printed on the front cover.

## Summary of Characteristics in chart form

Characteristic	Magazine	Scholarly Journal
<b>Content</b>	Popular interest – variety of topics	Specialized topics used for research
<b>Audience</b>	Broad general appeal	Select readership
<b>Why written?</b>	Broad general interest, entertainment	Scientific or academic information researched and reviewed by other scholars
<b>Contains</b>	No abstract at beginning of article; References not required; opinion	Abstract, References, often has footnotes; knowledge and evidence based
<b>Author – who wrote?</b>	Anonymous sometimes, Author has no particular credentials	Experts in the field, scholars and professionals with valid credentials
<b>How written?</b>	Simple non-technical language	Technical and specific language to the subject
<b>Review?</b>	Reviewed by magazine editor	Peer and Scholarly review
<b>Where found? Availability</b>	Bookstores, supermarkets, public libraries, convenience stores, etc.	Colleges, universities, technical schools
<b>Length</b>	Brief, usually an overview	Usually more than 5 pages
<b>Illustrations</b>	Heavily colored articles often with eye-catching photography	Charts, graphs, sometimes few images unless descriptive of the information
<b>Publisher</b>	Commercial	University, association, academic press
<b>Advertising</b>	Can be largest portion of magazine	Minimal if any
<b>Sources and References</b>	Not required and often not noted	Required, source material follows the article in documented bibliographic format
<b>Examples</b>	People Magazine, Time, Money	British Journal of Occupational Therapy, Project Management Journal, The NAVTA Journal, AJN: American Journal of Nursing

\*Definitions are directly or derived from ODLIS, Online Dictionary for Library and Information Science, Copyright 2002 by Joan M. Reitz [https://www.abc-clio.com/ODLIS/odlis\\_A.aspx](https://www.abc-clio.com/ODLIS/odlis_A.aspx)  
Other References and sources referred to for this chart included:

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