

## Peer-Reviewed vs. Professional Transcript

What is a peer-reviewed article? And what distinguishes it from a professional article? This video will help you distinguish between these two types of publications.

First, let's review what we mean by a "peer-reviewed article." The peer-review process requires that before an article is accepted for publication, it must go through a rigorous procedure that includes a review by several experts in the field (i.e., peers of the article's authors). These peer-reviewers (who are sometimes called "referees") suggest possible revisions and make recommendations to the editor of the journal on whether or not the article should be published.

Most databases offer a search mechanism that helps you limit your searches to "peer-reviewed" resources. You can also determine if a particular journal is refereed by consulting the publisher's website for the journal in question and checking the author's guidelines to see if they refer to a peer-review process.

To learn more about this process, watch the accompanying video.

Now let's move on to comparing and contrasting the two types of articles. The first major difference relates to their purpose:

Peer-reviewed articles are scholarly and research based. They report on original research studies.

Conversely, professional articles feature applied research. They are more practical in orientation, and offer professional support.

The authorship of each varies:

Peer-reviewed articles are written by scholars, academics, and researchers. Their credentials and institutional affiliations are listed in the article.

Professional articles are written by practitioners in the field (in our case LIS professionals) rather than researchers.

Their audience varies:

Peer-reviewed articles are directed towards other scholars, academics, and researchers, while professional articles are directed towards other practitioners (in our case, LIS professionals)

Their accountability varies:

Peer-reviewed articles are, as the name implies, controlled by a peer-review process, while professional articles are controlled by professional ethics.

Several key characteristics vary between the two:

Peer-reviewed articles are much longer, usually 10 or more pages, while professional articles are shorter, often less than 7 pages.

Peer-reviewed articles tend to discuss methodology and research findings while professional articles rarely concern themselves with explaining methodology.

Peer-reviewed articles contain fully formatted bibliographies, complete with references and citations, while professional articles usually only contain citations such as endnotes.

Peer-reviewed articles employ dense, discipline specific language. And while professional articles may contain some professional-related jargon, they are usually much more accessible language-wise.

Peer-reviewed journals generally lack advertisements, while professional periodicals often contain several.

Here are a few examples of each type of journal:

Peer-reviewed journals include:

- *Evidence Based Library and Information Practice* and
- *Weave: Journal of Library User Experience*

Professional journals include:

- *American Libraries* and
- *School Library Journal*

As always, if you have any questions, be sure to post them to the Q&A Discussion Forum.

Bye for now!