

What are Periodicals?

The terms “magazine”, “journal”, “periodical” and “serial” are often used interchangeably. However some distinctions can be made. “Periodical” is a general term that can be applied to any publication that is issued periodically e.g. weekly, monthly, quarterly, annually.

Some specific types of periodicals are described below:

Type	Characteristics	Examples
Popular	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ popular in nature ▪ intended for a general audience ▪ written by journalists with no special training in the field ▪ usually no bibliography ▪ easily purchased at newsstands ▪ glossy in appearance and a high percentage of advertisements ▪ includes magazines and newspapers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Newsweek ▪ People ▪ Sports Illustrated ▪ Time
Scholarly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ intended for an audience knowledgeable of the field ▪ written by scholars or researchers in the field ▪ the articles generally contribute additional knowledge to or demonstrates original research in a field ▪ plain in appearance with some illustrations such as charts and graphs ▪ always contains a bibliography of sources used by the writer ▪ some scholarly publications <u>may be</u> subjected to a more rigorous editorial process and will be classified as peer reviewed or refereed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Journal of Advanced Nursing ▪ Journal of Canadian Studies ▪ Journal of Social History
Trade	<p>There are many periodicals that do not match either of the above classifications and will have some characteristics of popular and scholarly periodicals. These 'hybrid' periodicals may be referred to as "Professional", "Trade Journals", or "Consumer" publications.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Scientific American ▪ Nursing Times ▪ Mathematics Teacher