Where To Locate Scholarly Journals in the SBVC Library

in print  Current copies of scholarly journals are available in the Reading Nook (across from the Circulation Desk near the elevator and drinking fountain). If you need older issues of scholarly journals, ask for them at the Circulation or Reference Desks.

online  SBVC students have access to hundreds of current and back issues of scholarly journals, most of them in full-text via the online Reference Databases. You can read, save, and email articles to yourself for use in your research. The largest collection can be found in the EBSCO databases, but the other online databases also offered through the Library contain valuable scholarly works, too.

Not on Campus? No problem!
Did you know that SBVC students can access the Reference databases from wherever they happen to be studying?

off campus  passwords are available 24/7 on Canvas. To access them:
1) Log in to Canvas
2) Click on a course
3) Click on SBCCD Resources, then
4) click on San Bernardino Valley College, and you will see a list of the usernames and passwords for all of the databases.

on campus  pick up the current semester’s passwords at the Library’s Reference Desk.

San Bernardino Valley College Library

Circulation Desk: (909)384-4448
Reference Desk: (909)384-8289

LIBRARY HOURS
Monday through Thursday: 7:30am to 8:00pm
Friday: 7:30am to 5:00pm
Saturday: 10:00am to 2:00pm
Closed Sunday

For holiday or intersession hours, call the numbers above, or go to:
https://library.valleycollege.edu

What Is a SCHOLARLY JOURNAL?

Research? DONE! @ The Library

SOURCES

• www.lib.sfu.ca
• www.libguides.csuchico.edu
• www.northern.edu/library/services
• www.kau.se/en/library
Characteristics Of Scholarly Journals

Unlike many popular magazines, scholarly journals can look quite stark and uninteresting. They typically lack colored fonts, flashy advertising, and glossy paper. If there are illustrations, they are generally tables, charts, or graphs, in black and white. These differences are purposeful, intended to show that the content is serious and academic, not trendy. Some of the many ways that you can differentiate a scholarly journal from a popular magazine are:

- **layout** of the pages often appears plain and sober, not colorful and inviting.
- **illustrations** are graphs, tables, charts, maps, and/or diagrams, usually in black and white. If photographs are included, they are also in black and white.
- **advertisements** are not typical (since financial support comes from the organization that publishes the journal, not from paid advertising). Occasionally, ads can be found and are usually for topic-specific books, professional equipment, conferences, or memberships in scholarly organizations.
- **author** are the same professionals and/or scholars who performed the research that is the subject of the article. Their names, academic credentials, and institutional affiliations (e.g., where they work) always appear at the top of the article.
- **publishers** are mostly research, academic, professional, scientific, historical, or medical institutions, organizations, or societies.

### Why You Should Use Them

Before being published, every article in a scholarly journal must pass a rigorous quality assessment by a board of experts in a particular field of study (called a peer review). This ensures that the content meets the highest standards for meticulous academic research. The subject matter will be current, trust-worthy, and based on legitimate research. Any claims or opinions put forth in the articles have been fact-checked and documented for reliability.

### Types Of Scholarly Articles

Articles in scholarly journals are made up of three fundamental types:

- **original articles** contain records of new research conducted to answer specific questions. They may contain surveys, questionnaires, and/or descriptions of the methods and results of primary research.

- **review articles** contain reviewers’ evaluation of previously-published research articles.

- **theoretical articles** draw on existing research and often present original theories based upon or linked to the established research.

### Elements Of Scholarly Articles

There are certain tell-tale components that are indicative of articles in scholarly journals. They are:

- **abstract** or summary of the article, usually appearing right after the title and author information at the beginning of the article. Abstracts contain the research objective(s), method(s), result(s), and conclusion(s) drawn from the study. Included at the end of the abstract are keywords identifying important content dealt with in the research.

- **introduction** or general description of the research process, including the research questions explored in the study as well as the objectives and limitations of the investigation.

- **methods and materials** indicates a description of the research methodology as well as a list all of the materials and equipment used in the study. As this is a key portion of the article on which its quality is judged, the description of the research design, participants, etc. is detailed and extensive.

- **results** outcomes of the study are presented, with important data often given in tables, graphs, or charts. Positive, negative, or unexpected results are discussed.

- **references** included at the end of each article list all the documents and other resources used by the author(s), presented so that the reader is able to locate original sources of information should s/he choose to do so.