Five Names for Journals that Contain Scholarly Articles

1. Academic Journals
2. Peer-Reviewed Journals
3. Refereed Journals
4. Research Journals
5. Scholarly Journals

Though each of these “names” – on closer inspection – can have a different meaning for different professors (researchers) – they all tend to have one thing in common. These journals contain scholarly articles.

Scholarly articles (and academic articles) are articles that will cite other research. Scholarly and academic are roughly equivalent in meaning.

If an article has a bibliography – it’s scholarly (and academic).

Research articles are articles that document actual new research (an experiment). Research articles will also cite other research. This means that research articles are also scholarly articles (and thus research articles are also academic articles).

Peer-reviewed articles (and refereed articles) are articles that have been scrutinized by other researchers or scholars who reviewed the research to see if it was worthy of publication. Peer-reviewed and refereed are roughly equivalent in meaning. Peer-reviewed or refereed articles are articles that have received special consideration and therefore special recognition. Peer-reviewed and refereed articles are often (but not always) research articles. Peer-reviewed and refereed articles are considered scholarly/academic articles.