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Differentiating Between Types of Sources

When doing research, it's important to know what type of source you are reading.

For example, your instructor may want you to cite only peer-reviewed journals.

And certain APA Style formatting rules apply to one type of source, but not another.

But determining the type of source can sometimes be confusing.



LIBRARY JOURNAL



THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

The New York Times



THE GRAND RAPIDS PRESS

In this video, we'll look at some types of sources that are commonly confused.

Academic Journals, Magazines, and Trade Journals

Academic Journals



Magazines



Trade Journals

LIBRARY JOURNAL



Academic journals are sometimes also called scholarly journals, refereed journals, or peer-reviewed journals.

Magazines are publications that contain articles and usually specialize in a certain area of interest, such as current events or gardening.

Trade journals are a specific type of **magazine** aimed at people working in a particular trade or career field.



Academic journals are often confused with **magazines** and **trade journals** because they have some things in common.

They all contain articles, are usually published on a regular schedule, and are usually divided into volumes and issues.

Let's take a look at how they differ.

Authors:

Academic Journals

Researchers and academics

Magazines

Staff writers and journalists

Trade Journals

Staff writers and people working in that career field

Audience:

Academic Journals

Researchers

Magazines

General Audience

Trade Journals

People working in a
specific career field

Purpose:

Academic Journals

To advance knowledge in the area of study.
Examples of common types of articles are case studies, experiments, and literature reviews.

Magazines

To inform a general audience about topics such as current events, trends, and other items of interest.

Trade Journals

To inform people in a career field about topics important to that field, such as current events, new technology, and trends.

Reviewers:



Experts in the field of study

Editors

Editors

Pictures and Graphics

Academic Journals

Few if any. Usually charts and graphs.

Magazines

Usually has many colorful photos and illustrations.

Trade Journals

Usually has many colorful photos and illustrations.

Advertisements:

Academic Journals

Magazines

Trade Journals

Few, if any.

Many

Many

Article Length:

Academic Journals

Long, in-depth articles

Magazines

Short articles – a few paragraphs to a few pages

Trade Journals

Short articles – a few paragraphs to a few pages

Vocabulary:

Academic Journals

Uses highly technical language for scholars.

Magazines

Uses vocabulary written at the level of 8th grade to college graduate. Not very technical.

Trade Journals

Uses some technical terms and jargon specific to the field.

APA References

Remember how we said the type of source can affect your APA references? Here's an example using two print articles. The differences are highlighted in red.

Academic Journal:

Murphy, M. C., & Dweck, C. S. (2016). Mindsets shape consumer behavior. *Journal of Consumer Psychology, 26*(1), 127-136.
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jcps.2015.06.005>

Magazine:

Hirten, M. (2017, February). How insurers are fighting insurance fraud. *Greater Lansing Business Monthly, 30*(2), 26-27.

A more specific date is given for the magazine article and a DOI number is usually given for the academic journal article.

Newspapers and Newsletters

Newspapers

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

THE GRAND RAPIDS PRESS

The New York Times

Newsletters



Newspapers and **newsletters** are two types of sources that are also often confused.

Newsletters are publications written by groups such as professional associations or civic organizations.

Both feature short articles written in easy-to-understand language.

Let's take a look at how they differ.

Authors:

Newspapers

Authors can be staff writers at the newspaper, or from a news cooperative such as The Associated Press (when the newspaper uses one of the cooperative's articles).

Newsletters

Authors are people who work for the organization.

Audience:

Newspapers

Articles are written for a general audience. Some, but not all, newspapers are written for people living in a certain geographic area.

Newsletters

Articles are written for people affiliated with the organization.

Topics Covered:

Newspapers

Articles can cover a wide variety of topics. Many newspapers are divided into sections such as World News, Local News, Sports, and Arts.

Newsletters

Newsletters only feature items of interest to the organization, such as upcoming events and interviews with key people.

APA References

Here is another example of how the type of source can affect the APA reference. Here we have a newspaper article and a newsletter article, both accessed online. Differences are highlighted in red.

Newspaper:

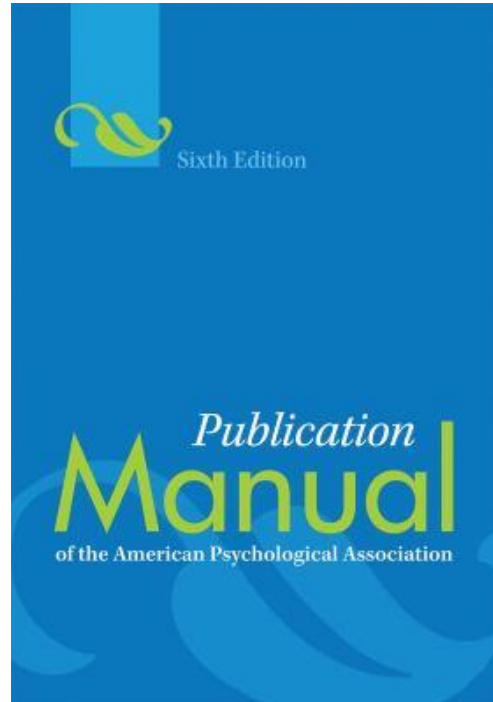
Hinkley, J. A. (2017, March 23). Can Michigan lure urban grocery stores?
Lansing State Journal. Retrieved from <http://www.lansingstatejournal.com>

Newsletter:

Pitts, V. (2016, March/April). The year of advocacy. *FOCUS: Newsletter of the Michigan Health Information Management Association*. Retrieved from http://77.104.136.201/~andreako/mhima.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Mar-Apr_FOCUS-2016.pdf

For the newspaper, we give the url of the paper's homepage, while for the newsletter, we provide the exact url.

For more information on formatting your references using APA style, check out the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*.



Thank you for watching!

If you have questions, please contact us:

<http://libanswers.davenport.edu> Text: 616-504-1696





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