What are (Scholarly) Peer - Reviewed Publications?

“After review, the play has been ruled...”
If you’ve ever watched a televised sporting event, you may have heard a game referee use the words above, after a controversial call. The referee is the expert who makes sure the teams play fairly, responsibly, and according to the rules.

Publications can have referees, too. Most often, scholarly periodicals that focus on a particular subject of study or research give their content to a special expert review board of peers, or referees that reviews articles to be sure the information meets the highest standard of accuracy and timeliness.

Peer reviewed is defined by EBSCO** Publishing as follows:

- **Blind Peer Reviewed** - (or **Double Blind Peer Reviewed**) - Articles appearing in a journal are sent outside of the journal's publishing or sponsoring organization for review by external reviewer(s), whereby the either author's identity and / or the reviewers' identity is unknown.

- **Editorial Board Peer Review** - articles appearing in a journal are reviewed by an internal board of editors, not solely by one editor. The author's identity may be known or unknown.

- **Expert Peer Review** - articles appearing in a journal are reviewed by experts (either internal or external to the journal) whose credentials are known and who are experts within the subject matter of the article under review. The author's identity may be known or unknown.

Peer-reviewed / Refereed journals contain a section that describes the selection process, the organization behind the journal, and details the process to submit a paper or article for review. They usually have covers that appear studious and official, but no flashy photographs, advertisements or headlines; and they usually won’t appear on a local newsstand.


**Ebsco definitions taken from: support.ebsco.com/knowledge_base/detail.php?id=976, 2 Nov. 2015

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