

## Journal Article Definition

In scholarly research, a [Journal Article](#) is sometimes called a Scientific Article, a Peer-Reviewed Article, or a Scholarly Research Article. Together, journal articles in a particular field are often referred to as The Literature. When scientists have information or an experiment to add to the body of knowledge in their field of study, they usually write up their findings for inclusion in a scholarly journal. Before it is published, the standard procedure is for the articles to go through a process of peer review.

Journal articles are most often Primary Research Articles. However, they can also be Review Articles. These types of articles have different aims and requirements. Sometimes, an article describes a new tool or method.<sup>1</sup>

Because articles in scholarly journals contain standard metadata and there are well established citation methods, they are currently the most likely of research objects to be FAIR and citable. Some journal articles are published immediately as Open Access (with a Creative Commons license). Increasingly, the remainder will also be openly available by a preprint, institutional or personal repository even if the version of record has been published in a subscription journal and is therefore behind a paywall.

---

<sup>1</sup> Adapted from University of Toronto Libraries Guide: BIO 120: Adaptation and Biodiversity <http://guides.library.utoronto.ca/c.php?g=250471&p=1670761> by Fiona Murphy, accessed on 20 August 2017