



Finding Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

What is a peer-reviewed or refereed journal article?

Peer-reviewed and *refereed* are synonymous terms. Articles in peer-reviewed journals are reviewed by the author’s peers or other academics in their field to evaluate the author’s research. Journals might have an *open-review process* where the author knows the editors and the comments are public. *Blind* or *double-blind methodologies* are when the author does not know the editors.

Where can I find a journal article online?				
	TRU Library Database	Academic Search Complete	ResearchGate	Google Scholar
Free	Free for TRU students	Free for TRU students	Free to join	Not always free
Peer-reviewed	TRU’s database can narrow a search to peer-reviewed journals	Allows a search for peer-reviewed articles	Not all articles are peer-reviewed	Does not have a way to search for peer-reviewed articles. The researcher must verify if they are peer-reviewed.
Accessible	A librarian can help navigate the database and answer specific research questions. Online (PDFs) are available.	Links to online versions (PDFs)	Authors can be contacted directly for a copy of their article.	Easy to find articles, books, abstracts, and court opinions
Data	Large selection from across the disciplines	Has articles from many disciplines.	Limited collection in their database	Large selection across the disciplines



Finding Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

How do you know an article is Peer-Reviewed?

1. Locate the date the article was accepted by the journal, reviewed, revised by the author, and then finally published. For example, "Received January 1st, 2018, Accepted June 29th, 2018. Published in *Science* on July 21st, 2018."
2. Look at the journal's editorial policy. This might be found under the *Aims & Scope* or *Instructions for Authors* and state that it uses a peer-review process.
3. Read further in the journal to find information about its peer-review policy. Does the article use scholarly technical terminology? Does it have an academic layout? Is the article written by researchers in the field? Is the advertising minimal or non-existent? Are the references listed in the footnotes or works cited?



- Limit the search to peer reviewed articles if the database allows it.
- Ulrichsweb.com has a database that allows you to check if a journal is peer-reviewed.
- The masthead is a box near the front or back of the journal that has information about the editors and publisher; this may indicate if the article is peer-reviewed.



Maintenance and reliability engineering: What are academic sources? <https://guides.lib.monash.edu/c.php?g=219722&p=1453814>