

# Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

Welcome to the *Peer Reviewed Journal Articles* tutorial!

This tutorial is designed to help developing scholars at Arizona State University build important skills and knowledge for their scholar's tool kit.

To begin, click the “Start Course” button under the main title. To navigate forward, scroll to the bottom of the slide and click the down arrow to move to the next lesson. Follow the arrows on each slide to move through the lesson material.

## Lesson 1: Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this tutorial, you will be able to:

- explain what a peer reviewed journal article is
- describe peer review and why scholars value articles that pass the test
- define "refereed" journal article
- use *One Search* features to find peer reviewed journal articles
- use *Ulrichsweb* or the publishers web to determine if a journal is peer reviewed

## Lesson 2: Defining a Peer-Reviewed Journal Article

### Scholarly Peer Reviewed Journal Articles

Scholars communicate their research and theories to other scholars by writing journal articles, books and other types of publications. Most (but not all) journal articles are peer reviewed, meaning they have been examined by other experts for quality control. Sometimes peer reviewed journal articles are called "refereed" journal articles. Peer reviewers or "referees" ensure that an article meets the standards of the journal where it may be published. A common form of peer review is "double blind" review in which the identity of the author and reviewer are not known to each other.

## Purpose of Peer Review

Click on each of the **flashcards** to flip them over and reveal the **purposes of peer review!** When finished, use the **right arrow** to proceed to the next **flashcard!**

- To provide editors with information needed to reach a decision on whether to publish an article or not
- To instruct authors on how to strengthen their paper to make it acceptable
- To maintain high standards of peer-reviewed journals
- To ensure research is properly verified before being published
- To improve the quality of the research: rigorous review by other experts helps to refine key ideas and correct errors

## Lesson 3: The Peer Review Process

Let's look an example of the process an ASU professor went through to get her article published!

### Step 1 of 5: Research/Scholarship and Writing

Dr. Aggarwal specializes in sustainability at ASU. She researched heat islands and water use in Phoenix with a group of colleagues. They wrote a paper about the research and identified the best peer reviewed journal for submission. The paper was sent to the journal *Water Resources Research* (WRR) for consideration.

### Step 2 of 5: Journal Editor's Review

The WRR editor or staff checks the paper for its **fit with the scope** of the journal and **adherence with author guidelines**.

If yes, the paper is sent to selected peers for review

If no, the paper is rejected and sent back to the author

### Step 3 of 5: Peer Review

Peer reviewers evaluate the quality and significance of paper.

### **Peers recommend:**

- A. publishing as an article
- B. publishing as an article with revisions
- C. rejection

The editor considers the recommendations of the peer reviewers and makes a decision to publish or not.

### **Step 4 of 5: Revise and Resubmit**

If the editor accepts the paper for publication, the author receives detailed instruction on how to improve the article. Most papers require some revision. The paper will go through the same process again to determine whether or not the changes are sufficient. The author can also decide to withdraw the paper.

### **Step 5 of 5: Publication**

SUCCESS! Here is what the publication process for this article looks like:

#### Publication History

- Issue online:14 June 2012
- Version of record online:14 June 2012
- Manuscript Revised:3 May 2012
- Manuscript Accepted:3 May 2012
- Manuscript Received:16 May 2011

The article written by Dr. Aggarwal and her colleagues was published in volume 48 of *Water Resources Research* in 2012.

## **Lesson 4: Library One Search for Finding Peer Reviewed Journal Articles**

### **See a *Library One Search* Demonstration**

The video below demonstrates the *Library One Search* feature on the Library home page @ lib.asu.edu. You can find the same search box using

the **Library Icon** on **MyASU**. We know professor Aggarwal and her colleagues wrote a peer reviewed journal article on the topic of heat islands in Phoenix. Let's assume we want to find similar articles. Watch the steps for entering keywords (heat, islands, phoenix) and filtering results by peer reviewed journals and articles. Click the arrow to begin the video.

Video transcript:

*Let's try using the ASU Library "One Search" to find Peer-reviewed journal articles on the topic of "Heat Islands in Phoenix". Just enter your key words (heat, islands, phoenix), then click search. We're looking for peer-reviewed articles , so the first thing we are going to do is go over to the right-hand panel that says "filter my results", we'll look under "Availability", and click on "Peer-reviewed Journals". Then, we are going to limit to "Articles". So you'll see that each of these items has an "A" to left, it will tell you the title of the article, who wrote it, the journal it's located in, the volume issue number, page number and date, and then if it's peer-reviewed, it will say "Peer Reviewed Journal" in brackets. If you're interested in locating the article, just click on "Full-text available". Or, if ASU doesn't own it, you can request the article.*

## Lesson 5: Using Ulrichsweb to Determine if a Journal is Peer Reviewed

### Ulrichsweb

During the research process you might find a great article on your topic and need to verify that it is peer reviewed. ASU Library has an online periodical directory called **Ulrichsweb** to help you figure it out. Look up the article's journal name to see if the entry includes a referee's shirt.

### ASU Library Homepage

The four tabs here show the process of finding **Ulrichsweb** and completing a journal search. Go to the **ASU Library Homepage** (<https://lib.asu.edu>) and click the **View All Library Databases** link.

## **Search for Ulrichsweb**

Enter *Ulrichsweb* in the search box or click on "U" to locate library databases starting with the letter "U," like *Ulrichsweb*.

## **Journal Names in Ulrichsweb**

Once you are in *Ulrichsweb*, enter the name of the journal in which your article is published. Let's see what happens when we look for the journal Dr. Aggarwal's article on heat islands appeared in, *Water Resources Research*. Just enter the title in the search box.

## **Look for a Referee's Shirt**

Browse to find the journal. Your goal is to find the journal and see if it includes a referee symbol. The image below shows listings for *Water Resources Research* which include a referee symbol on it. As previously mentioned, the term "refereed" is the same as "peer review."

## **Lesson 6: Learning Outcomes**

Now that you have completed this tutorial, you can:

- explain what a peer reviewed journal article is
- describe peer review and why scholars value articles that pass the test
- define "refereed" journal article
- use *One Search* features to find peer reviewed journal articles
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## **Lesson 7: Conclusion**

Congratulations, you have completed the *Peer Reviewed Journal Articles* tutorial!

Click on “Tutorials” to return to the Tutorials page or “Quiz” to complete a brief quiz