Peer reviewed journals & articles

What is a peer reviewed journal?
Journals that are peer reviewed (or refereed) are academic or scholarly journals that use a process to ensure the quality of the articles they publish. Before an article is published, it is sent to independent experts in the same field (the author’s peers) for review and critique. The reviewers assess the scholarly or scientific quality of the article and suitability for the journal. Most scholarly journals are peer reviewed, but even within peer reviewed journals, certain types of articles, such as book reviews, editorials, etc., may not go through the peer review process.

See this short video for a quick explanation of peer review.

How can I tell if a journal or article is peer reviewed?
- Most databases will have a limit feature that you can select to only view peer reviewed articles. Example, in CINAHL, do your search then select ‘Limit to’ and ‘Show More’ for the Peer Reviewed limit. Or watch this video about finding peer reviewed articles in the Libraries’ One Stop Search.
- Visit the journal’s website. A statement about peer review will be found on the journal’s main page, or under the ‘Journal Info’ or ‘Author Info’ sections.
- Look up information about the journal in Ulrich’s Periodical Directory. This database lists information about most journals, including peer review status. Find Ulrich’s in the Libraries’ Databases A-Z list.

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