

A peer-reviewed journal, also called a referred journal, scholarly journal, or academic journal, is what you will likely use to support your thesis for a research paper. Articles in peer-reviewed journals are written by experts in the field and represent the highest quality, most current research. All articles are reviewed by a panel of peers (thus the name “peer-reviewed”) that test the information for accuracy, content, and currency.

### **Characteristics of a Peer-Reviewed Journal Article**

- Written by experts, scholars, or researchers in the field
- Written for other scholars and professionals
- Uses technical or professional language and terms, so the tone and style are formal
- Spans several pages (often over eight pages)
- Contains footnotes or citations and a bibliography/references list/works cited
- Often published by a professional or academic publisher, such as Yale University Press

### **Finding Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles at Western**

You will find peer-reviewed journal articles within many of the databases at the Western Library. You may also find it helpful to consult with a member of the library staff for assistance.