

How do I Know when an Article is Peer Reviewed

Prepared by Lisa Yamagata-Lynch

Peer reviewed or refereed indicates the process to how an article is determined to be published in scholarly journal. When a journal is peer reviewed it means that authors submit their work to the journal editor, the journal editor determines whether the article is a good fit to the journal, the editor sends the article to at least 2 or 3 reviewers, the reviewers send their reviews to the editor, the editor synthesizes the reviews then determine the response to the article author. At this point the editor can choose to accept the article, accept with minor revisions, accept with major revisions, or reject the article. Often times authors experience multiple review cycles with one article where they will encounter one, two, or more revisions before the reviewers and editors make an acceptance decision.

This peer review process is in place to ensure the quality of scholarly work. It does not necessarily mean that non-peer reviewed scholarly work is always of less quality compared to peer reviewed work, but non-peer reviewed work lacks the rigorous process involved in publication. You may find peer reviewed articles in both print and online journals so the format of the journal does not necessarily determine whether the work is peer reviewed or not.

The method for you to find out whether a work is peer reviewed or not is to find the print based journal or the website of the journal. Often times in the first couple pages of the journal or in the "About" section or "Submission instructions for authors" section of a journal website, the editor will clearly state whether the journal is peer reviewed or refereed. In this case both peer reviewed and referred means the same thing. Additionally, in chapter 26 of Reiser & Dempsey (2007) there are list of journals in educational technology and the author indicates whether a journal is peer reviewed or not.