

# PHYS 2500 and 3870/3880: Information Resources In Physics

Information Resources for Physics 2500 [PHYS|2500/3870/3880]

[Information Resources In Physics](#)

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## The Basics

Part of your work in this class will require you to search the physics literature to identify journal articles that support work you are doing in your labs or other assignments. The "Databases" tab lists good sites for you to use to find journal articles. The "Journals" tab lists information about journals in the Merrill-Cazier Library.

You will be expected to read and cite peer reviewed articles. The authors of these articles submitted their work to be read and critiqued by other experts in the field prior to being accepted for publication in a journal. This is done to insure the published work is reliable and sound.

Sometimes it is not easy to tell if a journal publishes peer-reviewed articles. You can use the table below to help determine if the article is from a peer-reviewed journal. Alternatively, you can always contact your friendly librarian (email the article or citation to the address in this guide) and they can usually tell you very quickly if it is a peer review journal.

One common measure of the reputation and utility of various peer reviewed journals is the impact factor. This is based on the average number of times articles from a given journal are cited by other authors.

## Subject Guide



**Betty Rozum**

[Email Me](#)

**Subjects:**

[Physics](#)

## Scholarly vs. Popular

|                    | Scholarly  | Popular  |
|--------------------|--|--|
| Bibliography       | yes  | usually none present   |
| Author             | noted expert or professional and credentials are provided  | journalist, student, or no name provided   |
| Reading Level      | advanced, often with specialized vocabulary or jargon  | easy to read   |
| Purpose            | to provide information in a specific field and/or report research findings   | provides an overview, opinions, or general information   |
| Article submission | articles are reviewed by professional peers; editor and editorial staff are experts in the field and may work at a variety of institutions | articles are written by staff of the magazine or newspaper; editor and editorial staff work for the magazine/newspaper |
| Article format     | structured with sections such as abstract, introduction, methods, results, and discussion  | articles do not necessarily follow a set structure or format   |

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