Welcome to the Randall Library guide to “Is This Journal Peer-Reviewed?”

Peer-review means that one or more experts in the field review articles submitted to the journal. The reviewers check the article for quality and originality of research, as well as adherence to editorial standards of the journal. After review, the reviewer can recommend that the article be sent back to the author for revisions, be rejected, or be accepted for publication.

Peer-reviewed articles are also sometimes referred to as refereed or just reviewed.

If you are ever uncertain if an article meets the peer-review standard, you have two methods to verify your source. First, you can check a library database called “Ulrich’s Web.”

Go to the Randall Library homepage, library.uncw.edu and select “Databases.”

Select the letter “U”

Scroll down and select “UlrichsWeb”

If you are off-campus, you will be prompted to log in. Use the same username and password that you use for your email or for Seaport.

Type the name of the journal.

If you see the black & white referee icon, you can feel confident that your article has been through the peer-review process.

Be careful to double check that the name of the journal exactly matches your source as many journals have similar titles.

Sometimes, Ulrich’s says that a journal isn’t peer-reviewed, when it really is.

This can happen when a journal is newly peer-reviewed or simply when there is an error in Ulrich’s records.

So, if you think a journal is peer-reviewed, but Ulrich’s says it isn’t, then there is another way we can check.

The other method for finding out if a journal is peer-reviewed is to go to the journal’s website.

Journals are proud of their rigorous peer-review process and many will mention that they are peer-reviewed on their homepage or under “About the Journal.”

Again, be careful to double check that the name of the journal exactly matches your source as many journals have similar titles.
In addition, remember that while most of the articles in your journal may be peer-reviewed, journals also contain items that are not part of the peer-review process--such as editorials and book reviews.

Still uncertain if your articles are peer-reviewed? Ask a Librarian. library.uncw.edu/ask