Popular v Scholar Journals
The below will assist you in determining if an article is scholarly, peer reviewed, or if it is popular. This makes a BIG difference and **you must know this for scholarly / academic research!**

**POPULAR**

- A lot of advertisements
- A lot of pictures
- Entertainment is the purpose
- Subjects are not scholarly
- Author(s) has no affiliation with an educational, medical, or like institution
- Cannot find an author information
- There are no or few works cited listed
- The writing is simple, written for large array of readers
- Articles are usually short
- Data tables, statistics, or other signs of research is not contained within article
Popular v Scholarly Journals; ways to evaluate

**SCHOLARLY**

- Author(s) are prominently displayed
- Author(s) have credentials, usually affiliated with an educational or research institution
- Research is displayed within data tables and/or statistics
- There is a works cited/references
- The works cited are scholarly and not popular - from research journals
- Usually little to no pictures (unless it is a data table)
- Has been reviewed by other professionals in the field for accuracy (peer reviewed)
Tips in databases to spot peer reviewed and scholarly articles:
Most of these are listed in the CRAAP test, but when you are in the database(s) there are many options to help you retrieve scholarly research. See the examples below!

1. FILTERS! This is a search interface from Academic Search Premier, look to the side for filters for peer review, currency, and references to prove research.
2. **After you perform a search, also look for filters, again usually on the side**

   - **Refine Results**
     - **Current Search**
       - **Boolean/Phrase:** Cambodia land mines
       - **Limiters**
         - **Full Text**
     - **Limit To**
       - **Full Text**
       - **References Available**
       - **Scholarly (Peer Reviewed) Journals**
       - **Publication Date**
         - 1991
         - 2012

   - **Source Types**
     - **All Results**
     - **Magazines** (9)
     - **Newspapers** (2)

3. **AUTHORS**
   When looking at an article's information, seek information about the authors, their affiliations, the
use of statistics or charts (shows research) like the article below: This is scholarly and peer reviewed.

The complex relationship between human immunodeficiency virus infection and death in adults being treated

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Document Type: Article

Subject Terms: *TUBERCULOSIS -- Treatment
*HIV (Viruses)
*DEATH
*PUBLIC health
*SOUTH Africa

Geographic Terms: CAPE Town (South Africa)

Author-Supplied Keywords: Adults
                           Cape Town
                           Death
                           HIV
                           Tuberculosis

Abstract: Background: Despite recognised treatment strategies, mortality associated with tuberculosis (TB) remains significant. Risk factors for death due to tuberculosis were evaluated using a binomial regression model and thus relative risks (RR) are reported. Results: Overall in the 33,133 cases included in the study, 2.19 (95% CI: 2.03-2.37). However in an age specific analysis HIV-positive patients aged 25 to 25 years old were at an even higher risk of death than positive men, RR = 2.74 and RR = 1.94 respectively. Conclusion: HIV carries an increased risk of death in this study but specific factors need to be investigated.

Methodology is clearly stated, the authors' affiliations are clearly stated, and there is a large number of references - the works cited. This is clearly scholarly and peer reviewed.

4. This is the actual article. Again, look for the clues everywhere! Methodology is clearly stated, the authors' affiliations are clearly stated, and there is a large number of references - the works cited. This is clearly scholarly and peer reviewed.
The complex relationship between human immunodeficiency virus infection and death in adults being treated for tuberculosis in Cape Town, South Africa

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Abstract

Background: Despite recognised treatment strategies, mortality associated with tuberculosis (TB) remains significant. Risk factors for death during TB treatment have been described but the complex relationship between TB and HIV has not been fully understood.

Methods: A retrospective analysis of all deaths occurring during TB treatment in Cape Town, South Africa between 2009 and 2012 were done to investigate risk factors associated with this outcome. The main risk factor was HIV status at the start of treatment and its interaction with age, sex and other risk factors were evaluated using a binomial regression model and thus relative risks (RR) are reported.

Results: Overall in the 93,133 cases included in the study 4619 deaths (5%) were recorded. Across all age groups HIV-positive patients were more than twice as likely to die as HIV-negative patients, RR = 2.19 (95% CI: 2.03–2.37). However in an age specific analysis HIV-positive patients 15–24 and 25–34 years old were at an even higher risk of dying than HIV-negative patients, RR = 4.82 and RR = 3.76 respectively. Gender also modified the effect of HIV- with positive women having a higher risk of death than positive men, RR = 2.74 and RR = 1.94 respectively.

Conclusion: HIV carries an increased risk of death in this study but specific high-risk groups pertaining to the impact of HIV are identified. Innovative strategies to manage these high risk groups may contribute to reduction in HIV-associated death in TB patients.

Keywords: Tuberculosis, Death, Adults, HIV, Cape Town
Popular v Scholarly Journals; ways to evaluate

References

If you are unsure if what you chose is good for academic research, please ask a librarian or your professor. Everyone at GBC wants you to succeed!

- Evaluating information is a critical skill in this information age!
- Many websites are available to you freely and easily, however some may be incredibly bias, out of date, or just plain wrong!
- Please be careful with what information you use. The above will give you guidelines to assist you determine if the information you found, especially online, is credible and valid.
- Information literacy and critical thinking are very difficult skills to acquire. Most need a lot of practice through college to become an information literate person. Once you obtain a high information literacy skill, you are ready for lifelong learning!!