Academic Articles, Scholarly Journals, Peer-reviewed Articles?

Academic journals, Scholarly journals, and Peer-reviewed articles are often considered the same thing: a publication or article that has gone through a process of peer-review. Experts in the field that the article is focused on review and critique the article prior to publication. The purpose of this is to ensure the article is accurate, meets the criteria and guidelines of the journal, and follows a certain academic research rigor.

A scholarly journal can contain both peer-reviewed and non peer-reviewed articles; e.g. book reviews, letters from the editor, general articles on topics of interest. It is important to know the key elements of a peer-reviewed research article.

Elements of a peer-reviewed article often include:

- Original research or experimentation is reported and analyzed
- Literature review of prior research
- Footnotes, Bibliography or Reference List
- Substantial length (due to the nature of scholarly publishing peer-reviewed articles are usually longer than 4-5 pages.)
- Credentials or affiliation of the author(s)
- Published in a peer-reviewed journal (Check the journal’s guidelines or Ulrich’s Guide to Periodicals to determine if it is a peer-reviewed journal.)

1. Author conducts research/experiments and writes a paper submitting it to a journal.
   Time frame: ~1-2 years

2. Editor sends paper to group of peers in the field to critique and vet the content, methodology, and supporting research.
   Time Frame: 6mos to 1yr.

3. Paper is returned to author for revision and correction. Author then resubmits the paper to the editor.
   Time Frame: 3-6mos.

4. Paper is accepted and then published as an article in the journal. It is then listed in databases for other researchers to find.
   Time Frame: 6mos to 1yr.

1.5. Author sometimes places the paper in a ‘working papers’ repository for critique and feedback prior to the completion of the research

3. Paper is returned to author for revision and correction. Author then resubmits the paper to the editor.
   Time Frame: 3-6mos.