TYPES OF ARTICLES

The descriptions of types of information below can apply equally to periodicals, books, and web pages.

**Scholarly, Academic, or Peer-Reviewed**
- Few illustrations other than charts and graphs
- Articles written by scholars or researchers in the field, often faculty with Ph.Ds
- Almost always lists sources and/or includes a bibliography
- Reports on original research or experimentation
- Often published by a university press, research center or professional association
- May be scholarly because of the credentials of the writers, but targeted towards students

**Professional**
- Written for (and usually by) people in a specific line of work
- Assumes knowledge of the field
- Not usually available on the newsstand
- Only sometimes lists sources or includes bibliography
- Often published by a professional association
- Examples of periodicals: *American Libraries, Playthings, Communication Arts, Animation Magazine*

**Substantive News**
- Often glossy in appearance with color illustrations
- Sometimes list sources or includes bibliography
- Usually available on the newsstand
- Articles are usually signed
- Level of writing geared to educated or well-read audience
- Sometimes difficult to distinguish between this and "Academic"
- Examples of periodicals: *National Geographic, Art in America, Artforum, Wall Street Journal, Discover*

**Popular**
- Easily purchased on newsstands, bookstores or available for free via the Internet
- Geared towards general audiences
- Articles written by staff writers or freelance writers
- Slick or glossy (in print version), with lots of advertising
- Seldom includes list of sources
- Examples of periodicals: *People, Sports Illustrated, Vogue, Rolling Stone*

**Sensational**
- Variety of styles, but often newspaper format when in print
- Language is elementary and occasionally inflammatory or sensational
- Purpose is to arouse curiosity and to cater to popular superstitions
- Flashy headlines designed to astonish
- Examples of periodicals: *National Enquirer, Star*

AICAD. "Information Literacy." AICAD Information Literacy MOOC. Online. 16 Sept. 2013. Reading.