

Popular v Scholarly Journals; ways to evaluate

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

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

The screenshot shows the EBSCOhost Academic Search Premier search interface. At the top, there is a search bar with the text "Enter any words to find books, journals and more" and a green "Search" button. To the left of the search bar is the EBSCOhost logo. Above the search bar, it says "Searching: Academic Search Premier | Choose Databases". Below the search bar, there are links for "Search Options", "Basic Search", "Advanced Search", and "Search History".

The "Search Options" section is expanded, showing several filter categories:

- Search Modes and Expanders:** Includes radio buttons for "Boolean/Phrase" (selected), "Find all my search terms", "Find any of my search terms", and "SmartText Searching" (with a "Hint" link). There are also checkboxes for "Search for similar words" and "Also search within the full text of the articles".
- Limit your results:** This section contains several filters:
 - Full Text:** A checked checkbox.
 - Scholarly (Peer Reviewed) Journals:** A checked checkbox, highlighted in yellow.
 - Publication:** An empty text input field.
 - Number Of Pages:** A dropdown menu set to "All" and an empty text input field.
 - References Available:** A checked checkbox, highlighted in yellow.
 - Published Date:** A dropdown menu set to "Month", followed by "Year:" and an empty input field, a hyphen, another "Month" dropdown, and another "Year:" with an empty input field. The "Published Date" label is highlighted in yellow.
 - Publication Type:** A dropdown menu with "All" selected, and other options like "Periodical", "Newspaper", and "Book".
 - Image Quick View:** A checked checkbox.
 - Image Quick View Types:** A grid of checkboxes for "Black and White Photograph", "Color Photograph", "Graph", "Map", "Chart", "Diagram", and "Illustration".

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2. After you perform a search, also look for filters, again usually on the side

The image shows a 'Refine Results' sidebar from a search engine. At the top, it displays the current search: 'Cambodia land mines' with 'Full Text' selected. Below this, the 'Limit To' section has three options: 'Full Text' (checked), 'References Available' (unchecked), and 'Scholarly (Peer Reviewed) Journals' (unchecked). A date range filter is set from 1991 to 2012. The 'Source Types' section includes 'All Results' (checked), 'Magazines (0)', and 'Newspapers (2)'. At the bottom, there are expandable sections for 'Publication', 'Subject: Thesaurus Term', 'Subject', 'Company', 'Language', 'Geography', and 'NAICS/Industry'.

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 tre

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Dunbar, Rory³
Draper, Heather R.³
Lombard, Carl^{3,4}
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Source: BMC Public Health. 2015, Vol. 15 Issue 1, p1-8. 8p. 1 Diagram, 4 Charts, 3 Graphs.

Document Type: Article

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

Geographic Terms: CAPE Town (South Africa)

Author-Supplied Adults

Keywords: Cape Town
Death
HIV
Tuberculosis

Abstract: Background: Despite recognised treatment strategies, mortality associated with tuberculosis (TB) remains significant. Risk factors for death during TB treatment in Cape Town, South Africa between 2009 and 2012 were done to investigate risk factors for death during TB treatment. Methods: An analysis of all deaths occurring during TB treatment in Cape Town, South Africa between 2009 and 2012 were done to investigate risk factors for death during TB treatment. Results: Overall in the 93,133 cases included in the study, the risk of death was 2.18 (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 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 HIV-associated death in TB patients. [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]

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Accession Number: 103740387

Images: Show all 8 images



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

Muhammad Osman¹, James A. Seddon^{2*}, Rory Dunbar³, Heather R. Draper³, Carl Lombard^{3,4} and Nulda Beyers³

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

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Popular v Scholarly Journals; ways to evaluate

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!!**