

PEER REVIEWED SOURCES

WHAT IS PEER REVIEW?

Scholarly articles that undergo peer review are vetted by experts prior to publication. These experts evaluate and critique articles that are submitted to a journal, and make recommendations to the journal editors about whether or not an article should be published.

Watch: [Peer Review in Three Minutes](#) (NCSU Libraries)

WHY IS PEER REVIEW IMPORTANT?

While there are variations in journal quality and the peer review process is not entirely free of error, in the vast majority of cases, peer review helps ensure published articles are credible. Reading articles from peer reviewed journals in your area of study helps you understand the key issues, controversies and open questions that scholars in your discipline are discussing.

HOW DO I FIND PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES?

Many databases available through the [UC Davis Library](#), e.g. [Linguistics and Language Behavior Abstracts](#) or [Communication Abstracts](#), include built in options that allow you to limit your results to *Peer Reviewed* or *Scholarly (Peer Reviewed) Journals*.

The screenshot shows a search results page with 95 results. On the left, there is a 'Refine Results' sidebar. Under 'Limit To', the 'Scholarly (Peer Reviewed) Journals' checkbox is checked and highlighted with a red box. In the main results area, the 'Limit to' section has the 'Peer reviewed' checkbox checked and highlighted with a red box. Below the sidebar, there is a 'Publication Date' range from 1976 to 2020.

To determine if an article you find in [Google Scholar](#) is published in a peer reviewed journal:

- Do a web search for the journal title. Read the journal description or look for other evidence on the journal website that it includes peer reviewed articles.

The screenshot shows the website for 'English for Specific Purposes', an international research journal. A yellow highlight is placed over the text: 'English For Specific Purposes is an international peer-reviewed journal that welcomes submissions from across the world. Authors are encouraged to submit articles and research/discussion notes on topics relevant to the teaching and learning of discourse for specific communities: academic, occupational...'

OR

- Search [Ulrich's Periodicals Directory](#) (be sure to log into the UC Davis Library's [VPN!](#)) by the journal title to determine if the content is peer reviewed.

The screenshot shows the Ulrich's Periodicals Directory search results for 'Written Communication'. A red box highlights the entry for 'Written Communication' with the note 'indicates peer reviewed content'. The table below shows the search results:

Title	Publisher	ISSN
Written Communication		0741-0883
Written Communication		1552-8472