

Choosing Peer-Reviewed Articles

Huntington College of Health Sciences strives to provide our students with the best possible experience in the research and evaluation of research in the field of Health Sciences. Many of our assignments will require students to evaluate or select peer-reviewed or refereed journals or articles.

Peer-reviewed articles are those that are written by experts in the field. For us here at Huntington College of Health Sciences those will usually be in some area of the health sciences field. These reviews are done by the author's peers in the field to assure the accuracy of the content of the article. When a reviewer actually does the article review they are, in most cases, unaware who the author of the article actually is, therefore, they are able to give an unbiased opinion on its contents. Huntington College may require these articles for an assignment because they are more likely to be based on expert opinion and have been reviewed by other experts in the field. These are the "preferred" sources of information on the subject you are researching.

Sometimes it may be difficult to tell whether the article is peer-reviewed or not. In that instance you may do the following:

- You might also find the website for the journal on the internet. In some or most instances the website will indicate if the article is peer-reviewed.
- If you are using a database search to find an article, limit your search to peer-reviewed articles.
- If you have a hard copy available, examine the publication to see if it is peer-reviewed.
- You may want to check the database Ulrichsweb.com (this will have a fee). You must type in the full title including any initial or article in the title. There will be a symbol next to the article to indicate if it is a peer-reviewed or refereed article. You may want to ask for volume 5 of Ulrich's which lists the major peer-reviewed journals within the "Refereed Serials" section at your local library (this option would be free).
- A good resource for better understanding the process of finding peer-reviewed articles is <http://lib.calpoly.edu/research/guides/peer.html>.