How to Determine if a Journal is Peer Reviewed

Many, but not all, journals indexed in library research databases are peer reviewed. There is no one method of determining if a journal is peer reviewed, but below are some good indicators. The more of these indicators a journal has, the more sure you can be that it is peer-reviewed.

When you are in the full-text a journal article, click on the About this Journal link, which is usually near the top of the page.

On the About this Journal page below are several indicators:

- The journal explicitly claims to be peer-reviewed. Some journals will also describe their peer-review process in greater detail in this section of the journal.
- The journal is published by Oxford Journals, an academic, scholarly publisher.
- The journal is sponsored by a professional society (http://www.srnt.org/about/mission.cfm), the mission of which is to sponsor scientific research and publications.
- This journal states its current Impact Factor. Impact factors are a measure of the frequency with which articles in academic, scholarly journals have been cited in a particular year. Popular journals are not included in this ranking process.
- This journal has an editorial board of academic and professional experts. Their names, qualifications and university affiliations are listed.
Another way to verify if a journal is peer reviewed, is to check in Ulrichsweb, a database of academic and trade journals.

- On the library website, under Search Collections, click on Databases by Subject
- Type: urichsweb in the search box

In Ulrichsweb, type the exact name of the journal. In the search results, click on the online journal title.
The Ulrichsweb entry below indicates this is a Refereed (another name for peer reviewed) journal, and that the content of this journal is academic, scholarly.