A quick introduction to
Research Articles
Every legitimate research article is published in a peer reviewed/scholarly journal.

Characteristics of peer reviewed/scholarly journal:
• Lengthy articles
• Few images, but often lots of tables and figures
• Article includes references
• Can include original research
• Written by experts in the field
• Articles vigorously reviewed by other experts in the field
But…

Not every article in a peer reviewed/scholarly journal is a research article. For example, you may also find editorials, literature reviews, and book reviews in research journals.

So is there a way to tell if an article is a research article? YES!
Parts of a Research Article

- Abstract
- Introduction
- Methods (or Methodology, or Materials and Methods)
- Results
- Discussion
Abstract

An abstract is a summary of what the article contains. The abstract of a research article will include the nature of the study or experiment being conducted, the study/experiment’s findings, and a brief note on the significance of the findings.
Introduction

As the name suggests, this section of a research article introduces the reader to the concept being studied and why its study is significant.
Methods (or Methodology or Materials and Methods)

This section lays out the methodology of the experiment (or study) that the paper’s authors are conducting.
Results

This section lays out the findings of the experiment (or study) that the paper’s authors are conducting.
Discussion

The discussion section of a science research article is where the authors interpret and discuss the significance of their experiment’s results.
You can find scientific research articles in a number of different databases in NCLIVE. Multidisciplinary databases, such as ProQuest Central, are a good place to start your research.

- First go to NCLIVE ([www.nclive.org](http://www.nclive.org))
- Click on Articles under Browse
- Click on ProQuest Central
Always mark off the “Full text” box. Otherwise, you’ll get search returns for articles you can’t access.

Always mark off the “Peer reviewed” box. Otherwise, you’ll get search returns for articles that aren’t from peer reviewed publications.
Searching in Databases

- Searching databases is different than searching Google
- Avoid long strings of words, avoid sentences
- Think about the concepts you want to search. What’s the shortest way of expressing your topic?
- Use Boolean Operators (AND, OR, NOT, Quotation Marks) to build complex searches out of simple keywords

If you are interested in the adverse health effects of smoking, try breaking that down into short keywords separated by the Boolean Operator AND:

**Smoking AND effect**

You may also want to experiment with different search terms:

**Cigarettes AND effect**

Smoking OR cigarettes AND health
(Tobacco OR smoking) AND “lung cancer”

The more you play around with your search terms, the better your search results will be.
If you ever have questions or need assistance, ask a librarian!