A primary research article presents new and original scientific studies and findings. They usually have the following components: Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion and References. Before publishing, primary articles are usually peer-reviewed, however that is not the same as a review article. Peer-reviewing is essentially someone proofreading your work.

A review article is a collection of information on a particular topic using existing research. It is combining multiple sources to present a specific topic, but it is not new information or new research. This is great for getting to know an issue or idea. However, this article does not want to present every detail of the research of a particular topic.

Scientific peer review process: Peer-review means that before a paper is published it undergoes a review process by someone with the same specialty or profession. Essentially it is a proof read of the work, that often includes revisions of the original. First the researcher writes a draft article to present the research and findings and submits it for publication. Then the journal’s editor reads the draft to decide if the topic is a good fit for the journal or not. If they decide that it is a good fit the draft gets send to experts, who evaluate it on quality. This is the process of peer-review. Each reviewer then evaluates the draft based on the quality and significance of the research topic. They ask questions like: “What is this research about?”, “Is it important?”, “Is the methodology sound?” and “Are the findings original?”. After asking all of these questions the reviewers decide if the draft is worthy of being published in the journal. They do this by either approving or rejecting the paper to the editor of the journal. Even if approved, they usually want the author to make some changes or revisions. The editor then makes a final decision if the draft is getting approved, rejected or revised. The time between the initial submission by the author and the publication can last several months or even years. Once the journal is published, it is made available to subscribers (often universities).

“Libguides: Tutorial: Scholarly Literature Types: Primary vs. Secondary Articles.” *Primary vs. Secondary Articles - Tutorial: Scholarly Literature Types - LibGuides at Cornell University*, guides.library.cornell.edu/c.php?g=293669&p=2004549. Accessed 07 Feb. 2025.