

A primary article is an article that contains a researcher's original data and findings. Primary articles are normally peer-reviewed and broken down into several sections, including the following: an introduction to their topic with their parameters of interest, a section explaining how they performed their experiment and by what standard they would collect their data, a section that states the results of the experiment, and one discussing their findings.

A review article is a secondary source, which is normally a summary or commentary of existing research. These summaries of previous work are often more digestible for the average reader and do not include all the research; however, the primary article can still be found in the references if further details are wanted. Good examples of secondary sources are books and review articles.

The scientific peer review process refers to the process that occurs after researchers submit their research and findings for publication in a scholarly journal. If the research passes examination by the journal editor, the research article is sent to groups of experts in the same field to examine its quality; this is the peer review step. The experts examine the research's quality by asking relevant questions about it and then decide to approve or reject it. Often, even when approved, it's common that the researcher will still need to edit their article; however, ultimately, the decision to be published in a scholarly journal is dependent on the editor.