What’s the Difference between Popular and Scholarly Articles?

Popular Articles (in Magazines)
- Are often written by journalists or professional writers for a general audience
- Use language easily understood by general readers
- Rarely give full citations for sources
- Written for the general public
- Tend to be shorter than journal articles

Examples of Popular Magazines:
- Business Week
- Time
- Discover
- Psychology Today
- Astronomy

Scholarly Articles (in Journals)
- Are written by and for faculty, researchers or scholars (chemists, historians, doctors, etc.)
- Uses scholarly or technical language
- Tend to be longer articles about research
- Include full citations for sources
- Are often peer reviewed (articles are reviewed by an editor and other specialists before being accepted for publication)
- Book reviews and editorials are not considered scholarly articles, even when found in scholarly journals

Examples of Scholarly Journals:
- American Journal of Political Science
- Business History Review
- International Journal of Middle East Studies
- Child Development
- The Classical Review