Is It a Scholarly Journal or Isn't It?

Some of the following characteristics are found in most scholarly journals

WHERE DID YOU FIND IT?
- Did you find a citation for it in a specific subject-oriented database? (For example, PsycINFO, ERIC, MLA International Bibliography, Sociological Abstracts, etc.) If so, it is more likely to be a scholarly source.

HOW ARE THE ARTICLES CHOSEN FOR PUBLICATION?
- The journal is published or sponsored by a professional scholarly society or association.
- A list of reviewers (editorial board) appears inside the front cover of the journal, on the first few pages. (This type of journal is known as a "juried" or "refereed" or “peer-reviewed” journal.) Suggestion: Use the Academic Search Complete database and limit your search to scholarly, peer-reviewed publications.

WHAT ARE THE GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF A SCHOLARLY JOURNAL?
- The articles are organized into at least two of the following sections:
  a) Introduction or Literature Review
  b) Theory, Background
  c) Subjects
  d) Methods
  e) Results
  f) Discussion
- The article has a bibliography or a list of references.
- The title of the article reflects its content.
- An abstract appears at the beginning of the article.
- The author’s credentials are listed.
- The article is based either on original research or authorities in the field, as opposed to personal opinion.
- Supporting diagrams or illustrations appear within the article.