

# WHAT IS A RESEARCH ARTICLE?



foto: NTNU Gjøvik

**UNIVERSITY LIBRARY GJØVIK**

*Phone: 61 13 52 00*

*E-mail: [gjovikbib@ub.ntnu.no](mailto:gjovikbib@ub.ntnu.no)*

*Innsida: search for «Biblioteket i Gjøvik»*

A research article presents results from research projects. The authors usually present either data from their own studies (empirical studies) or presents and interprets literature in a particular area (literature reviews), in the latter case, it is usually referred to as a review article. As a rule, also empirical studies have a background chapter with a summary of literature on the subject.

### **But what's the difference between an academic article and a research article?**

The main difference between academic articles and research articles is that research articles aim to provide new knowledge, while academic articles aim to spread already known and accepted knowledge.

### **What makes it scientific?**

Research articles are quality-reviewed by professionals and then published in a scientific journal. For an article to be considered scientific it should be peer-reviewed. Please note that the information on peer-review is posted on the journal level and therefore does not guarantee that all articles in a scientific journal are scientific. You are always responsible for critically reviewing each article yourself.

# CHECKLIST

Does the journal have routines for peer review?

You can, for example, check the journal's own web page, and look for information on peer-review there.

Methodology part: Does the method seem thorough and suited to answer the problem?

Most scientific articles follow IMRAD structure.

I = Introduction  
M = Method  
R = Results  
AD = And Discussion

In addition, the article must have a summary, conclusion and literature list, may have attachments.

Does the article present new knowledge?



## ALSO LOOK FOR

All sources are referenced.

Written by professional experts

Check that the author's affiliation is known, that is where she/he is working.

The language is professional and relevant.

The author states if there are conflicts of interest, for example, that the research is sponsored by someone interested in the outcome.

[www.innsida.ntnu.no/oppgaveskriving](http://www.innsida.ntnu.no/oppgaveskriving)

[www.kildekompasset.no](http://www.kildekompasset.no)

[www.sokogskriv.app.uib.no](http://www.sokogskriv.app.uib.no)

[www.hiof.no](http://www.hiof.no)

**Read - think - assess - cite!**