

## What's the difference between a textbook and a journal article?

A text book is written for students who may not be familiar with a topic or area of study – it's a good starting point if you want to get a broad overview of a field. It introduces you to some of the key issues and concerns of researchers and practitioners in the field. It's a good place to find a range of definitions and explanations of relevant models.

A journal article refers to an article, usually a research study, that is published in an academic journal. A journal article refers to an article, usually a research study, that is published in an academic journal and reviewed by experts in the field to ensure they meet required academic standards. Unlike a textbook, which aims to provide a broad overview of an issue, a journal article has a narrow focus. It reports on research into a specific issue or problem in a clearly defined location or organisation.

Unlike text books, which are written for a general audience, journal articles are written for academic researchers, so they are much more challenging to read. The guides at the links below will help you read more efficiently and more critically

How to read a text book

<https://edshare.gcu.ac.uk/6304/1/Template%20for%20reading%20textbooks.pdf>

How to read a journal article

<https://edshare.gcu.ac.uk/6333/1/Template%20for%20reading%20research%20articles.pdf>