What is a ‘Juried’ or ‘Refereed’ Source?

What does ‘juried’ or ‘refereed’ mean?

• That the articles or websites go through an professional editorial process which includes an impartial review and approval by peers who are recognized experts in that field.
  o This helps to ensure academic quality.
  o This allows peers to scrutinize the article or website to ensure it meets the standards of excellence and that no information is distributed with unwarranted or scientifically unsupportable claims.
• Generally speaking, the terms ‘juried,’ ‘refereed,’ and ‘peer-reviewed’ are all used interchangeably.
• The majority of scholarly publications are juried by peers – BUT not all!
  o A scholarly publication is authored by academics for a primarily academic audience.
  o Typically it is published by a recognized educational entity, society, or organization with academic goals and missions.

How can you ensure that your article or website is ‘juried’ or ‘refereed?’

• Use the scholarly databases in the NAU Online Library to find articles.
  o Most databases have a method to narrow the search to only articles that are ‘peer-reviewed,’ ‘juried,’ or ‘refereed.’ Look for an ‘Advanced’ search option or tab.
  o Look in the database for a field that allows you to limit, narrow, or restrict your search further and look through the limiters for terms similar to:
    ▪ Juried
    ▪ Peer-reviewed
    ▪ Refereed
    ▪ Review Articles
    ▪ Evidence-based or Cochrane (typically found in nursing or healthcare literature)
• Evaluate any website with the guidelines in Finding Quality Websites.
• This is a list of questions to consider to help identify an authoritative site.
• Generally speaking, you will be more likely to find a qualifying website if you look for websites ending in:
  o .gov (governmental sites)
  o .edu (education related sites)
  o CAUTION: .com (commercial) sites will require more scrutiny to ensure they meet the necessary criteria.
• Google Scholar & Wikipedia are NOT juried or peer-reviewed sites! However, they can be a good starting point for uncovering some potentially useful sources.
- **Google Scholar** is a way to restrict your web search to those websites that are scholarly in focus. Remember this is **just a starting point**, not all resources found on this site are juried. It is not a comprehensive resource and doesn’t provide very much free full text.

- **Wikipedia** can serve a purpose when you are unsure of a topic and want some information that elaborates on it. This information can be used to better prepare you for what kind of databases you might search to find juried sources. **REMINDER:** Wikipedia is **NOT** a peer-reviewed or juried site.

- **Encyclopedias** are juried sources - **HOWEVER**, these are not appropriate references for college-level research papers! They are best used to uncover background information and allow for a better understanding of the material you are searching for.