

Checklist: Is this a research article?

1

Is it published in a scientific journal?

Research articles appear in peer reviewed journals. Use the “peer review” filter when searching or check the journal’s details before evaluating the article’s content.

2

Is it based on research?

Does it clearly describe the aim, method, and results? In many fields, articles follow the IMRaD structure (Introduction, Method, Results, and Discussion).

3

Does it cite other research?

Research articles include many references to prior research, listed in a bibliography.

4

Assess the form and style!

Research articles have a distinct format often with dense text, columns, tables, or figures:

- **Language:**
Academic and technical (written for researchers).
- **Abstract:**
A summary, usually at the beginning.
- **Length:**
Typically 8–20 pages.

Your conclusion

If you answered “yes” to 1–3 and the form/style aligns with scientific standards, you have most likely found a research article.



REMEMBER: This is a simplified guide. Traditions vary by field. Do you feel unsure?
Please contact the library—scan the QR code for details.



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