scholarly/academic journal = periodical (regularly-appearing) serial (sequentially-numbered) publication, expected to continue indefinitely, usually made available by paid subscription, usually published by a university press or academic organization, featuring content—“articles”—written by-experts-for-experts in a particular academic field or discipline, and presenting research results or scholarly claims supported by formal documentation such as footnotes or reference lists. Submissions contribute to the advancement of knowledge in the discipline, and must pass intellectual and methodological review by a panel of peers (“refereed”). Journals include very few graphics other than necessary and supportive photos, illustrations or charts, and few or no advertisements (perhaps in the back-matter, featuring other equally-academic publications)

vs trade/professional magazine = magazine regularly published for and read by members of a particular trade group, profession, or industry, presenting news, reports, feature stories, descriptions of new products/resources/practices, and opinion or advisory pieces on subjects of interest to that group. These often contain many photographs and illustrations, usually many advertisements for professional products and services. Trade publications are not generally considered “scholarly,” but some articles may report on new studies or contain limited references or reading recommendations, and interviews can be primary source material.

vs popular/mass-market magazine = consumer periodical that covers news, current events, general interests, or special interests, written on popular topics for the general public or for niche-markets and sold in stores and newsstands or by home subscription. There are usually no scholarly references; they sometimes include book reviews; consumer magazines are often slick and colorful with many advertisements. They are intended for recreational reading.

online/electronic journal = internet-accessible equivalent of (or alternative to) a print journal, published with some regularity and content-controlled by an editor or editorial board; can make use of technical advantages such as hyperlinks, audio or video files and animations, interactivity. Some e-journals are “open access,” i.e. they by-pass physical printing and mailing and are accessible to everyone over the Internet without subscription, and may offer content-authors’ permissions allowing duplication or dissemination for educational purposes.

vs internet blog = frequently-updated, personal, online diary of one person’s observations and opinions, often with provision for response and discussion from others; can be ideological, sometimes outrageous or inflammatory.

vs online bulletin board or listserv = special-interest forums where discussion topics are posted on the Internet for comment by other registered members of the group. In a BB, each topic and it string of responses is a sometimes called a “thread,” and members log in to access these; whereas a listserv is a special-interest group’s mass e-mailing program where a message, question, or response is sent to the entire group.

vs “wiki” = collaborative website containing articles or other types of submission—e.g. artwork, midi or sound files, scanned scores— in which any registered user can add/edit/delete content at any time; often loosely monitored (e.g. may contain inaccuracies, bias, or illegal/pirated content).