Searching Ulrich’s International Periodicals Directory

Ulrich’s is an especially good resource for finding information about a certain journal. If you want to find out if a journal is peer-reviewed, or if it is considered academic or scholarly, Ulrich’s is the database you should be using.

Ulrich’s default search screen is very basic. It has a Google-style single search box where you can enter a Title, ISSN, or search term to find journals or other periodicals. There is an advanced search, but the basic search works well.

In this case we’re looking for information about the *American Journal of Public Health*:

After clicking search we find the results page:
The top entry (American Journal of Public Health – online) looks like the correct entry so we’ll click on that and discover the information about the journal:

There are a number of categories of information here. You are shown the ISSN number, which you can use to absolutely establish that this is the journal you were looking for, and there’s also a link to the journal’s website. Ulrich’s has two more important categories: Refereed and Content Type. The term refereed is just another way of saying peer-reviewed, so in this case we can see that the American Journal of Public Health is a peer-reviewed journal. Also in the Content Type category, we can see that this journal is considered Academic/Scholarly.
Ulrich’s can also help you find similar journals to the one that you originally looked up. If you click on the *Subject Classifications* bar (the first green link right under *Description*) you will see this:

The *Subject Classifications* gives you the subject assigned to this journal (*Public Health And Safety*) as well as the Dewey classification number. More importantly if you click the highlighted link directly to the right of the subject you will find an entire list of journals that Ulrich’s classifies under *Public Health And Safety*:

Another helpful tool is the *Abstracting & Indexing* link. If you click on that link Ulrich’s will show you what databases (that the University of Alabama has) contain the contents of that particular academic journal:
In this case it would be the database *ArticleFirst*. 