Finding an original research article

Original Research articles are reports of original scientific research (usually “empirical” research), written by the scientists themselves.

1. Start your search in a periodical database that includes professional or scholarly journals. At TCC this includes: Academic Search Premier, Cumulated Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature (CINAHL), ProQuest, and ScienceDirect

2. Before entering your search terms in the database, check the box to limit your search to “scholarly” or “peer-reviewed” articles (Not available in ScienceDirect because all articles fit that criteria)

3. When scanning through the list of results, look for the following:
   - Multiple authors (usually at least three)
   - Longer, technical sounding article titles
   - Lengthy articles, often six pages or more

4. Read the article abstracts looking for key words such as:
   - Study
   - Methods
   - Results
   - Randomized, Double blind, Placebo-controlled

5. Open likely articles and look for the following:
   - Divided into sections, which often include “Objectives”, “Methods”, “Discussion”, and “Results”
   - Charts, graphs, and tables
   - Lengthy references list

6. Beware of research that is created from a review of the existing literature. These articles can match many of the bullets above, but may not be acceptable to your instructor—ask!