Scholarly vs. Popular Sources

Which one is the most powerful source of all?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>SCHOLARLY</th>
<th>POPULAR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Author</strong></td>
<td>An expert in the field they are writing about</td>
<td>A journalist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Peer Review</strong></td>
<td>Other experts in the field review the work for accuracy</td>
<td>No review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Content</strong></td>
<td>Tend to analyze; present a new argument, and provide support</td>
<td>Summarizes the information without analyzing or presenting new information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Language</strong></td>
<td>Uses professional jargon (long, technical words)</td>
<td>More common language understandable to the general public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>References</strong></td>
<td>Utilizes other works to support their paper via in-text citations and a list of references</td>
<td>Does not use references</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

And the winner is... **Scholarly sources!!!**

They are written by and reviewed by experts, the work is in-depth and uses the technical language associated with their professional field, plus they research other related articles to support their own paper.

❖ **Okay, but why do we have to use them in our papers?**
  - All the characteristics of scholarly papers mentioned above ensure that the information you are using for your own papers will be accurate and reliable.
  - They add strength and support to your argument/thesis statement.
  - Your professors require it, and you need to use them to get an “A”!

Contact your Campus Library if you’d like a more in-depth tutorial on this topic!
Alright, we’re convinced. So where can we find scholarly sources?

- The best, easiest, and least expensive (because it’s free!) way to find scholarly sources is through the library’s many databases.
- The Britannica Online Academic Edition is a great source for background and definitions about a subject.
- Use EBSCO’s Academic Search Elite and Military and Government Collection for a wide array of academic journals.
- Our largest selection of databases is available through the LIRN Collection.

ACCESSING THE LRC DATABASES

1. Go to online.stratford.edu
2. Hover over Library Online, then click “How to Access the Research Databases”
3. You will see a list of databases and passwords.
4. From this page, you will be able to access all of our databases.

...just a sampling of our many databases!

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