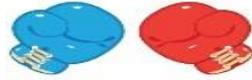


# Scholarly vs. Popular Sources

*Which one is the most powerful source of all?*



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

***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](http://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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