

# Scholarly VS. Popular Sources

## What's the Difference?

**Scholarly Sources** typically present original research written by researchers for scholarly audiences. They often undergo a peer-review process (Learn more about [Peer Review at Purdue](#)). These sources include some telltale signs such as citations to other research and are typically published by a research institution or professional organization.

### Examples of Scholarly Sources

- Academic articles and journals
- Conference publications
- Theses and dissertations
- Books written by and for researchers

**Popular Sources** are written for broader audiences rather than scholarly ones. They can be shorter in length and can also include research and argumentation, but they tend to take diverse formats, such as news articles, argumentative and creative essays, and trade publications.

### Examples of Popular Sources

- News articles, magazines, and other journalistic content
- Essays
- Books written for broader audiences (such as novels)
- Trade publications

## How to Tell if a source is scholarly?

- Apply a 'peer-reviewed' filter when searching a database.
- Check the author(s), citations, and publisher.
- Check [Ulrichsweb](#) to see if it is peer reviewed (requires the [UCLA VPN](#)).
- [Ask a Librarian](#) for help!