

Guide to Scholarly Sources

A **scholarly source** is an article or book that has been written by someone who is an expert in their area of study; usually this means that they hold a graduate degree in a relevant field. These sources often undergo a **peer-review process** and are written for an academic audience, rather than the general public.

Why should you use scholarly sources in your research paper?

Using scholarly sources is expected when you are writing academic research papers. The use of scholarly sources ensures that the information you are including in your paper is true and reliable. They also lend authority and credibility to your writing.

What is peer-review?

If a source is **peer-reviewed**, it has been evaluated by a group of experts. These reviewers will usually hold doctorate degrees. They carefully consider the article's arguments, citations, methodology, evidence, and conclusions to be sure that it meets the standards of the discipline before the article is accepted for publication.

How do I know if my source is scholarly?

The Author(s)	The Publisher	Citations and References	Language and Tone
<p>Are the authors names clearly stated on the source?</p> <p>What are the authors' credentials? Do they hold a graduate degree?</p> <p>Are the authors associated with a college or university?</p>	<p>Who is the publisher?</p> <p>For articles, has the source been published by a scholarly journal (such as <i>The Canadian Journal of History</i>, or <i>Digital Humanities Quarterly</i>)?</p> <p>Is it peer-reviewed?</p> <p>For books, is the publisher connected to a college or university (such as Oxford University Press)?</p>	<p>Is the information in the article cited correctly?</p> <p>Are charts, graphs, and tables provided (if applicable)?</p> <p>Does the article include a References or Works Cited list?</p>	<p>Does the source contain specific language and terminology relevant to the field, rather than simple language that is directed toward the general public?</p> <p>Is the tone formal and professional?</p> <p>Does the author remain objective throughout?</p>