# What’s a scholarly source?

## Video description

2:25 minutes

A short animation on how to tell the difference between scholarly and non-scholarly information.

## Transcript

FEMALE NARRATOR:

There's a lot of information out there but it's not all created equal. Sometimes you will be asked to use a scholarly, academic or peer-reviewed source in your assignments. But what does that mean? What is a scholarly source?

Scholarly information is written by academics or researchers. It is in-depth, well-researched and usually found in journals, books or conference papers. Often, this kind of research is peer-reviewed or refereed. This means that a group of experts in the field have verified the quality of the research.

Scholarly sources report the results of research to the rest of the academic world. This is how the body of knowledge in a subject grows over time. When you use scholarly sources in your assignments, you know that the information is considered reliable by experts in the field. This adds weight to your arguments and is likely to get you a better mark.

So what does a scholarly source look like?

It may be scholarly if it's based on a study conducted by the author, it's been peer-reviewed, it has a summary or abstract and extensive references, or it contains tables, graphs or statistics. Sometimes, it's hard to tell whether or not a source you've found is scholarly. Other reliable sources of information are available, including trade journals, industry information or popular writing. However, these are not scholarly.

So how can you find scholarly sources?

In LibrarySearch you can limit your search results to peer-reviewed articles which are usually scholarly. Many library databases also have the option to limit by scholarly, academic or peer-reviewed articles. Google Scholar is a good source of scholarly material. Many, but not all, results will be scholarly.

Librarians are trained to find scholarly information. So if you're not sure, ask a librarian.

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