

SCHOLARLY VS. POPULAR SOURCES OF INFORMATION

| SCHOLARLY SOURCES | POPULAR SOURCES |
|---|--|
| Type of Publication | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Journals <p style="margin-left: 20px;">Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Journal of Ecology</i> ○ <i>Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists</i> ○ <i>New England Journal of Medicine</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Magazines & Newspapers <p style="margin-left: 20px;">Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Time Magazine</i> ○ <i>Psychology Today</i> ○ <i>Wall Street Journal</i> |
| Author Credentials | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Scientist, educator, or has unique knowledge ● Position or title stated ● Has professional degree (Dr., PhD, RD, RN, etc.) ● Affiliated with a research institution | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Staff writer or unidentified ● No position or title stated ● No academic credentials provided |
| Other Characteristics | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Contain charts, tables, or diagrams ● Greater in length ● References within text and in bibliography ● Incorporate technical terminology ● Contain abstract written by the author ● Article independently reviewed by other "experts" (termed peer-reviewed or refereed) ● Contain little or no advertising | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Contain color photographs or illustrations ● Shorter in length ● Contain few or undocumented sources ● Incorporate simple terminology ● No abstract or one written by someone other than the author ● Article reviewed by publication editor or no one ● May contain substantial advertising |

Remember ...

- **Information is only as good as its source.**
- **When conducting research, it is important to use information from a source where the author has the credentials to write about that subject, and who fully documents the sources of information used.**