Is my source scholarly?*

*academic, peer-reviewed, refereed

Step 1
Source
Did you find this article in a library database?

Yes → Is the journal peer-reviewed? (See criteria on other side for help.)

No → Move to Step 2: Author(s)

Yes → Move to Step 3: Content

No → Not scholarly

Most likely scholarly

Step 2
Author(s)
Are the author(s)* credentials provided?

Yes → Are the authors affiliated with a university or other research institute?

No → Most likely not scholarly

Yes → Most likely scholarly

Step 3
Content
Does the article attempt to persuade or bias the reader?

No → Move to Step 4: Verify

Yes → Does the article have a works cited or bibliography?

No → Is the topic treated objectively and is the information well-supported?

Yes → Most likely scholarly

No → Not scholarly

Most likely not scholarly

Step 4
Move to Step 2: Author(s)

Move to Step 3: Content

Move to Step 4: Verify

Verify the complete evaluation criteria on the reverse side to confirm your findings.
More questions? Talk to your instructor or Ask a Librarian*!

*www.library.illinois.edu/askus
### Is my source scholarly?

#### What kind of an article do you have?
- Use the flowchart on the reverse side for your initial evaluation
- Use the information below to help make a final determination
- Still more questions? Ask A Librarian! www.library.illinois.edu/askus/

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source type</th>
<th>Scholarly Journals also known as Academic, Peer-reviewed, or Refereed</th>
<th>Professional and Trade Publications</th>
<th>Popular and Special Interest Magazines</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Criteria</td>
<td>PURPOSE: Inform and report original research Provide in-depth analysis of issues related to a specific discipline</td>
<td>PURPOSE: Provide current trends, news, research in a specific field Employment and career information</td>
<td>PURPOSE: Entertain, inform, and persuade without providing in-depth analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ARTICLES: Usually lengthy Focus on a narrow subject or piece of research Citations and bibliographies Charts, graphs, tables</td>
<td>ARTICLES: Length varies Statistics and forecasts Sources cited &quot;How to&quot; information</td>
<td>ARTICLES: Generally short Sources rarely cited</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PUBLICATION FREQUENCY: Often published quarterly, with some variation</td>
<td>PUBLICATION FREQUENCY: Varies, but often published monthly</td>
<td>PUBLICATION FREQUENCY: Published monthly or weekly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>AUTHORS: Scholars and professors Researchers in the field Author credentials are included</td>
<td>AUTHORS: Scholars Staff writers Freelance journalists</td>
<td>AUTHORS: Freelance journalists Editorial staff Authors may not be identified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>WORDS AND JARGON: Specific terminology used by scholars in the discipline</td>
<td>WORDS AND JARGON: Language specific to those in a given profession</td>
<td>WORDS AND JARGON: Common language and sentence structure; no jargon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>GENERAL APPEARANCE OF PRINT VERSION: Usually plain black print on white paper Few photographs, colorful graphics, or advertising</td>
<td>GENERAL APPEARANCE OF PRINT VERSION: Some photographs and graphics Advertising usually specific to the field</td>
<td>GENERAL APPEARANCE OF PRINT VERSION: Slick and glossy Many photographs Extensive advertising</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Do you have more evaluation questions? Find help on these pages:

**Is it scholarly? Tips for critically evaluating your information**
http://www.library.illinois.edu/ugl/howdoi/scholarly.html

**Evaluating internet sources**
http://www.library.illinois.edu/ugl/howdoi/webeval.html