



What is a Scholarly Source?

A scholarly source is a source that was created by someone with expertise in their field. Often scholarly sources are reviewed for validity by other people in the same field with similar expertise. This process is called peer review. For college level research, you want to be sure to use scholarly sources for your information.

The difference between Scholarly and Popular Sources

	Scholarly	Popular
Author	Clearly listed	Often non listed
Appearance	Subtle, professional	Eye-catching, colorful, advertisements
Audience	Specialized group	Wide range of people
Depth (Subject?) (Scope?)	Very specific subject matter based on research	Broad only touches on the surface level facts
Publishers	Universities and colleges, professional associations and organizations, scholarly groups	For profit, often to present one side of an issue
Citations	Provides citations either in text or with works cited list in the back	No or few citations, often vague

Examples	Scholarly	Popular
Book	<i>Late Prehistoric Florida Archaeology at the Edge of the Mississippian World</i> by Keith Ashley and Nancy Marie White	<i>Weird Florida: Your Travel Guide to Florida's Local Legends and Best Kept Secrets</i> by Charlie Carlson
Article/Journal	"Marion Post and the Farm Security Administration in Florida" by Robert E. Synder in <i>Florida Historical Quarterly</i>	"Apalachicola-Florida's Quiet Side" by Wanda McKinney in <i>Southern Living</i>
Webpage	"Recess Reading: An Occasional Feature From The Judiciary Committee: The Civil Rights Act of 1964" <i>United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary</i> http://www.judiciary.senate.gov/about/history/CivilRightsAct.cfm	"The 1964 Civil Rights Act: Now to the Present" InfoPlease http://www.infoplease.com/encyclopedia/history/integration-the-civil-rights-act-to-present.html