

## SCHOLARLY VS. POPULAR SOURCES OF INFORMATION

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

**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.*