Popular vs. Scholarly Sources

At the end of this tutorial, you will be able to identify a scholarly source and a popular source.

**Popular Sources:**
- Written for the general public
- Often written by journalists
- Report on current topics and events
- Purpose: to entertain or persuade
- Writing style: non-technical, conversational style
Library databases contain articles from both popular and scholarly sources. This article from Time magazine was retrieved from a library database. It was written by a journalist for the general public, so it is a popular source.

Abstract: The article discusses the civil uprising against Egypt’s autocratic ruler and U.S. ally Hosni Mubarak. According to the author, the uprising is similar to the Jasmine Revolution in Tunisia, which was encouraged by posts on social networking sites, such as Facebook and Twitter. Topics include an overview of what led to the spontaneous eruption of protests by Egyptians, called the Day of Wrath, such as Egypt’s high unemployment rate, and the reaction of the Egyptian police to the protesters.

On the Arab Street, Rage Is Contagious

Days after popular protests toppled Tunisia’s despot, Egyptians rise against their autocratic ruler—and ally—Hosni Mubarak. Who’s next?

Such is the extent of political repression in Egypt that when tens of thousands of people took to the streets to call for the downfall of Hosni Mubarak, nobody was more surprised than the protesters themselves. “I didn’t expect many people,” said businessman Ahmed Osama as he took in the crowds bearing antigovernment posters and anti-Mubarak slogans in Cairo’s central Midan Tahrir, or Liberation Square. Even Zeinab Khalfa, an artist who has spent years of her adult life campaigning for political reform, was astounded by the turnout. “This is the biggest protest I’ve seen here,” she said.

The protesters flooded Cairo’s streets on Jan. 25, dubbed the Day of Wrath by opposition groups. They shut down major thoroughfares and clashed with the police. Demonstrations also broke out in other cities across the country, most violently in Suez, where three protesters...
Now I’ll demonstrate finding a scholarly article using the **Quick Search Box**, searching for ‘fraternities.’ *(see below)*
This search yields over 6,000 results.
Use the ‘Refine’ feature to limit the set of results to just scholarly articles.

That gives us just over 2,200 results.
This is a closer look at the fifth article. It contains an abstract.
At the end, you'll find a list of references. These are all qualities of a scholarly article.
Features of Scholarly Resources:

- Written for and by the academic community, often people with PhD's
- Report on research or data analysis
- Peer review
- Purpose: to educate
- Writing style: academic or technical
- Provides a bibliography or a list of references
### SUMMARY

**POPULAR SOURCES:**
- Written for the general public
- Often written by journalists
- Written with the purpose to entertain or persuade

**SCHOLARLY SOURCES:**
- Have a list of references
- Report on research and data analysis
- Written for and by the academic community and researchers
- Peer review
- Purpose: to educate
- Writing style: academic or technical