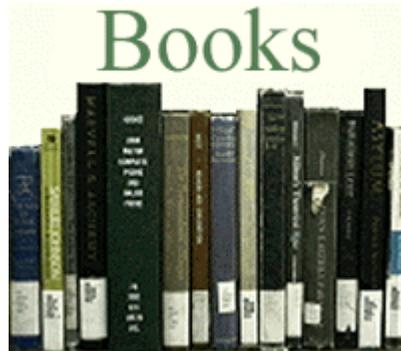


## Differences Between Resource Types

**Books are important resources for research assignments.**



**Pro:** The information found in books has been checked by **editors**, and the books found in the DTCC Library are selected for your use by **librarians**. As a result, library books, especially reference books, are good choices for **reliable** information.

**Con:** Because it takes years to write and publish books, they are not always the best sources for current topics.

**Scholarly journals are key resources for academic assignments.**



**Pro:** The articles found in scholarly journals go through a "**peer-review**" process. In other words, the articles are checked by **professors and other experts**. The information is **reliable** and based on extensive **research**. Scholarly journals take less time to publish than books, but the peer-review process is lengthy.

**Con:** Scholarly journals include information of academic interest, so they are not the best sources for general interest topics.

Because the peer-review process is time-consuming, they do not include up-to-the minute news or current event information.



**Popular magazines supply helpful information about general interest issues and current events.**

Pro: Popular magazine articles focus on issues of **current interest** including **news** and **trends**. Magazine articles must be approved by an **editor** and therefore are considered more reliable than web sites.

Con: Popular magazines do not undergo a peer-review process and are not based on extensive research. The articles are written by **journalists**, rather than researchers and professors. Generally, they do not include a list of references at the end, so you cannot trace the origins of the writer's ideas. Also, magazines are often written for a specific audience and may contain bias.

## Evaluate Articles - **Author**

### Who is the author?

<b>POPULAR</b>	or	<b>SCHOLARLY</b>
author's name provided		author's name provided
author's credentials omitted		author's credentials listed
author is often a professional writer without subject area expertise		author is usually a scholar or expert in the subject area

## Evaluate Articles - **Content**

### What sort of content does the article include?

<b>POPULAR</b>	or	<b>SCHOLARLY</b>
general, secondary discussion of topic		in-depth, primary account of original research
may include personal narrative		emphasis on factual information, including quotations and statistics
may emphasize opinion		

## Evaluate Articles - **Audience**

### Who is the article's intended audience?

<b>POPULAR</b>	or	<b>SCHOLARLY</b>
general public		scholars
		researchers
		students

### What level of language does the author use?

## **POPULAR** or **SCHOLARLY**

easily understandable

vocabulary of general public

jargon & specialized terminology

requires familiarity with subject area

### What research sources does the author cite?

## **POPULAR** or **SCHOLARLY**

works cited/reference list/bibliography often omitted

supplies little information about research sources

works cited/reference list/bibliography required

includes a lengthy list of other reputable research sources

### How is the article laid out? How is it organized?

## **POPULAR** or **SCHOLARLY**

informal structure

loosely related paragraphs

few subdivisions

formal structure

separate sections for:

- abstract
- goals/objectives
- literature review
- methodology
- results
- analysis
- conclusion