Library Research

Leah Townsend, B.Ed, MLIS
Liz Fulton-Lyne, MA, MLIS
Ngina wa Kaai, B.Ed, MLIS
Sarah Bailey, BA, MLIS
Sheena Sereda, BA, MLIS
Today we will learn about...

Types and characteristics of sources
Where do I look for information?

Google

OneSearch

Keyword Search books, articles & more...

All Books Articles Videos

Advanced Search
What is **Google**?  
**[A business]**

How does it find results from my search query?

- **Algorithms**
  - timeliness
  - location
  - **PageRank**
  - web history

  - **importance**
  - hyperlinks…

- **200+ variables**
What does this mean for web searching?

It means we can easily get stuck in something known as a filter bubble or echo chamber.

Characteristics of Sources

Scholarly
- written by credentialed experts in their field of study
- cite many other sources to show their evidence
- written for a specific audience
- reviewed by other people in their field of knowledge

Popular
- written for the general public (or the largest population possible)

Authoritative
- created by an expert (has specialized knowledge)
# Characteristics of Sources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author:</th>
<th>Scholarly</th>
<th>Popular</th>
<th>Authoritative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Experts in particular field of study</td>
<td>Journalists and anyone</td>
<td>Experts in a particular subject</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Review process:</th>
<th>Scholarly</th>
<th>Popular</th>
<th>Authoritative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Content is verified for accuracy by others in the same field before it is published (peer-reviewed)</td>
<td>Content can be published without any sort of verification process</td>
<td>May or may not go through a formal peer-review process</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Content:</th>
<th>Scholarly</th>
<th>Popular</th>
<th>Authoritative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Provides an answer to an original research question and explores multiple angles</td>
<td>May contain biased information</td>
<td>Contains factual information and potentially some opinion</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sources:</th>
<th>Scholarly</th>
<th>Popular</th>
<th>Authoritative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Provides outside sources so readers can verify information in other studies</td>
<td>May not provide other sources</td>
<td>May use any number of outside sources</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Visuals:</th>
<th>Scholarly</th>
<th>Popular</th>
<th>Authoritative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Graphics are minimal or are specific to study</td>
<td>Often have many advertisements and images</td>
<td>Varies</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Examples of Sources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Example</th>
<th>Scholarly</th>
<th>Popular</th>
<th>Authoritative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Journals • Books • Government documents • Masters/PhD theses &amp; dissertations • Conference papers</td>
<td>• Magazines • Newspapers • Blogs (written by scholars and others)</td>
<td>• Indigenous knowledge (i.e. conversations with an Elder or knowledge keeper) • Non-Western sources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purpose</td>
<td>Communicating research findings and education</td>
<td>Entertainment, general news, opinion pieces, editorials</td>
<td>Relevant, credible information sources that are not necessarily “academic”*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A peer-reviewed original research article
A course textbook
A Wikipedia article
A TED Talk by a professor of sociology
An interview with a medical researcher
Peer-Review Process

Original research
- Scholar submits an article to an academic journal to be published

Peer review
- Editor sends the article to experts in the same field for review
- Accuracy, Significance, Originality

Publication
- Scholar revises article for re-submission and publication
Writing Tutors are available online!

Get help with understanding your assignments, planning your writing, and communicating ideas clearly!

Tutors can also teach you how to proofread your own work.

They do not proofread or correct your work for you.

libguides.norquest.ca/tutorialcoaching
Research or citation questions?  
Ask a librarian!

Chat with us online!  
library.norquest.ca

Text us!  
587-600-0084

Email us!  
library@norquest.ca
Paired activity

To further your learning from today’s topic, please complete the **Source Types & Characteristics** library activity in Moodle.