Popular vs Scholarly

**Popular Sources**

Purpose:
- Entertain or report on current event
- Summarize research that may be of interest to the general public

Author:
- Journalists (often unnamed)

Audience
- General Public

Language
- General; can be understood by anyone

Sources/References
- Typically references or sources are not listed

**Scholarly Sources**

Purpose:
- Report the results of research
- Discuss ongoing research in detail

Author:
- Scholars (researchers in the field), always named, and often identified by the institution at which they work

Audience
- Scholars and researchers within a specific discipline or field of study

Language
- Highly specialized/technical; often includes jargon not easily understood by the general public

Sources/References
- Extensive list of sources (bibliography) and/or footnotes
Other Hints

Scholarly resources often include words such as "Journal", "Review" or "Bulletin", or include the name of an organization such as "American Historical Association".

Popular resources often include advertisements and glossy color photographs.
What is a peer-reviewed journal?

• If you are looking for articles that have been rigorously reviewed by experts before they are published, seek a peer-reviewed or refereed journal.

• Peer-reviewed or refereed means that articles published within these journals are selected by experts who evaluate them for accuracy and importance within the field of study.