

# HIERARCHY OF SOURCES

When doing academic research, it is important to know where your information is coming from – some sources are more credible than others. Use this guide to understand the types of sources you need and where to look for them. And when in doubt, ask a [UAGC Librarian!](#)

## MOST CREDIBLE

### PEER-REVIEWED

**Peer-reviewed sources** are **scholarly\*** journals that have gone through a rigorous review process by other experts in the field.

#### NOT SURE IF A JOURNAL IS PEER-REVIEWED?

- ➔ Go to the journal's website and read the "About" section to see if it mentions the peer-review process.
- ➔ Search for the journal's title in the UAGC Library. If available, the journal's [detailed record page](#) will tell you if it is peer-reviewed or not.

\*While peer-reviewed sources are considered scholarly, not all scholarly sources are peer-reviewed. Scholarly sources must go through the **peer-review process** to get peer-reviewed status.

### SCHOLARLY

**Scholarly sources** are thoroughly researched articles, journals, or books from experts in a given field or subject.

**CHECK THE SCHOLARLY/PEER REVIEWED BOX WHEN SEARCHING IN THE LIBRARY TO LIMIT TO SCHOLARLY SOURCES.**

Scholarly / Peer Reviewed

### CREDIBLE

**Credible sources** can be trusted to contain accurate information that is supported by evidence or can be verified in other trusted sources.

#### MANY SOURCES ARE CONSIDERED CREDIBLE AND RELIABLE, INCLUDING:

- Newspapers
- Magazines
- Encyclopedias
- Trade journals
- Books from trusted publishers, such as an academic press
- Government websites (.gov)
- Educational websites (.edu)



### OTHER

**Beware** of untrustworthy, unreliable sources. These can be hard to spot, so reach out to the [Library](#) if you need help.

#### RED FLAGS TO AVOID WHEN DOING ACADEMIC RESEARCH:



- Few references or supporting evidence
- Self-published books or websites
- Resources with outdated information
- Vague information on the author's intent
- Many commercial websites (.com)
- Many organizational websites (.org)

## LEAST CREDIBLE

#### Still not sure if a source is appropriate?

Refer to the [Scholarly, Peer-Reviewed, and Other Credible Sources](#) table for more information. Connect now with a Library Tutor to learn effective credible resource search strategies using the 24/7 Library Tutoring button on the library homepage and prepare to [Get the Most from your Tutoring Session](#).



24/7 LIBRARY TUTORING

Your instructor has the final say in whether or not a source is appropriate.