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!

**HIERARCHY OF SOURCES**

**MOST CREDIBLE**

**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 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.**

**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)

**BEWARE**

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- Resources with outdated information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)

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.