

## Popular vs. Scholarly Sources

### *What's the Difference?*

|                                            | Popular Magazine                                                                                                      | Scholarly Journal                                                                                                                                                                     |
|--------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b><i>Appearance</i></b>                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Glossy</li> <li>• Lots of pictures/photos</li> <li>• Contains ads</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Charts/graphs but few other types of images</li> <li>• No ads</li> </ul>                                                                     |
| <b><i>Article Acceptance Procedure</i></b> | Story concept is developed, a hired reporter writes it, a magazine editor reviews it, then it is published            | Many scholarly sources are “peer reviewed” or “refereed,” which means that other experts in the field review the article to determine if it is good enough to publish in the journal. |
| <b><i>Audience</i></b>                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Just about anybody</li> </ul>                                                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scholars</li> <li>• Practitioners in the field</li> <li>• Students</li> </ul>                                                                |
| <b><i>Authors</i></b>                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff or freelance writers (not necessarily experts)</li> </ul>              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scholars or Researchers (experts in the field)</li> </ul>                                                                                    |
| <b><i>Documentation</i></b>                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Often does not cite sources</li> </ul>                                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cites sources</li> <li>• Bibliography/references list</li> </ul>                                                                             |
| <b><i>Publisher</i></b>                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commercial publisher</li> </ul>                                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Professional association</li> <li>• University press</li> </ul>                                                                              |
| <b><i>Purpose</i></b>                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Entertainment</li> <li>• Information</li> <li>• Advertisement</li> </ul>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education</li> <li>• Sharing results of original research</li> </ul>                                                                         |