



## **Identifying Scholarly Articles – 7 Guidelines**

There is a huge amount of information available from many different sources for your research. There is also great variety in the quality of the material that you find. Some of the information comes from reliable sources, but other information comes from questionable sources.

To produce high-quality research papers, you must rely on information from authoritative sources. An excellent way to ensure that you are working with authoritative information is to work with scholarly or academic sources.

How can you be sure that information that you have found is a scholarly article? **Here are 7 guidelines to help you identify scholarly or academic articles.**

1. The author of the article is an expert in his field. Often, the author's title and/or qualifications are indicated after his name in the article. This is also true if there are multiple authors on an article.
2. The article has undergone the peer-review process. This means that the article that you are reading has been reviewed by a panel of experts in the field, (or, peers of the author), and that the research has been deemed worthy of publication in the journal.
3. The article has a bibliography. The author of the article will cite his references at the end of the article. This allows the reader to see what information that author has referred to in order to build his case.
4. The article has more than five pages. The length of the article is important because it indicates to the reader that it is a serious piece of work, and that in-depth research has been done by the author.
5. The writing style is theoretical rather than practical. The theoretical perspective means that a contribution to the existing body of research in the field is being made.
6. The intended audience of the article is scholars, researchers, and other professionals in the field. A scholarly article is not generally intended for readers outside the subject field.
7. Generally, there are no photos included as part of a scholarly article. Depending on the subject matter, there may be graphs or charts that support the author's research.

**Remember:** if you are unsure whether an article you have found is a scholarly article, you can always show the article to your teacher or a librarian. He or she can help you determine whether the article is a good source of information for your research.