

## What are Fabricated Reference Citations?

Fabricated citations are references to articles and other sources that seem to be legitimate and scholarly but do not exist. They typically are a product of hallucinations from artificial intelligence (AI) assistants such as ChatGPT. Since the technology bases its response on predictability and word frequency, it is common to receive references to fake sources. Below are some best practices to help you verify a source.

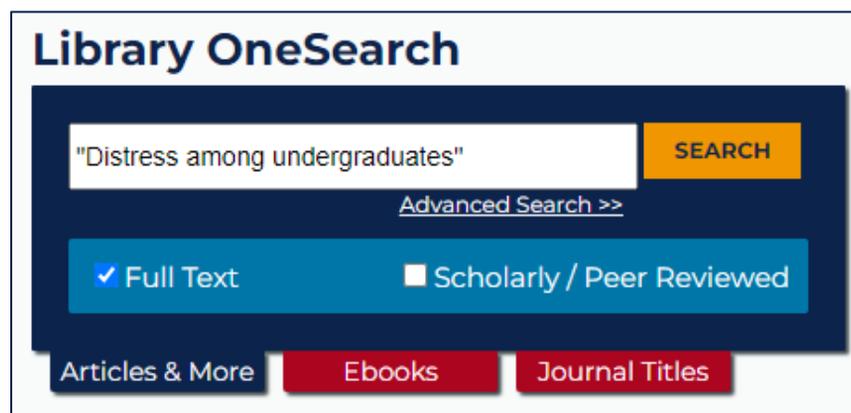
## How to Verify a Reference Citation

1. **DOI** – Search the Digital Object Identifier or DOI if one is provided. If not provided, you can also try searching for one related to the article using the [free DOI lookup](#). For more information see the [What is a DOI](#) QuickAnswer.

Khorramrouz et al. *BMC Res Notes* (2020) 13:433  
<https://doi.org/10.1186/s13104-020-05280-2>

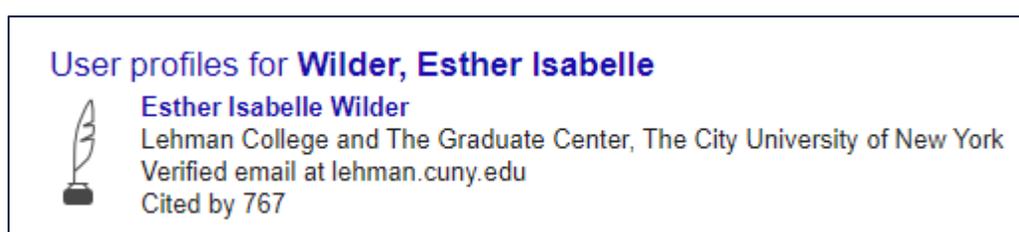
**Pro Tip:** Beware if the DOI provided links to a different article or if it doesn't work.

2. **Title** – Search for the article's title using Library OneSearch, Google Scholar, or Google. When searching, try putting quotation marks around the title and only search the first part of the title if there are two parts. For example, when looking for the title *Distress Among Undergraduates: Marginality, Stressors and Resilience Resources* try searching "Distress Among Undergraduates".



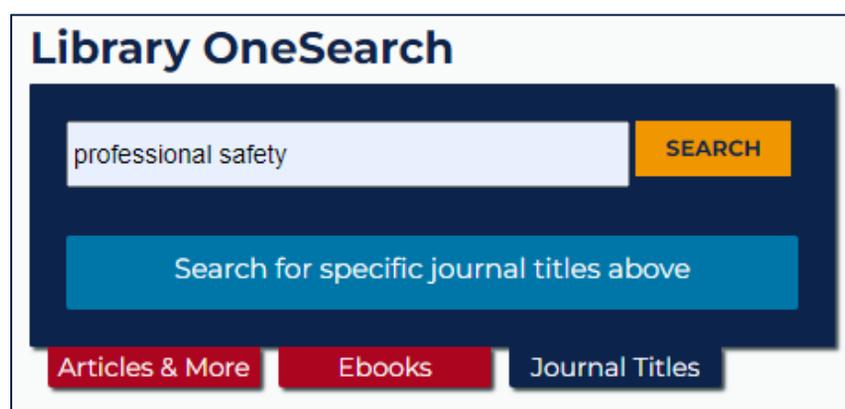
**Pro Tip:** Proceed with caution if the article's title contains words from or matches the assignment prompt.

3. **Author** – Try searching for the author of the article in Google Scholar. If you are fortunate, this will bring up the author's profile, which will allow you to verify that they are the article's writer and their credentials and follow the scholarly conversation. If unable to locate information about the author in Google Scholar, you can also try Google or searching in Library OneSearch.



**Pro Tip:** Be suspicious of authors with common names, such as Smith, J. or Adams, S.

4. **Publication** – Search for the journal title in the UAGC Library. If unavailable in the library's collection, try searching for the journal online. If you locate the publication, but the volume and issue do not match the citation information, that is a sign that the source may be fabricated.



**Pro Tip:** For assistance locating an article, author, or publication in the library please see the [How do I find an article when I have a citation](#) QuickAnswer.

**Not sure if the source is fake? Reach out to a Librarian:**

24/7 Library Tutoring | Phone Reference (866) 685-8089 M-Th 1 pm-5 pm | Email [library@uagc.edu](mailto:library@uagc.edu)