

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- Resources with outdated information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.