

# Scholarly vs Popular Sources

A Research & Library Skills Exercise ♦ 2011-2012  
[www.lib.umd.edu/UES/engl101/exercises.html](http://www.lib.umd.edu/UES/engl101/exercises.html)



Instructor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ ENGL 101 Section: \_\_\_\_\_ Class Meeting Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Why is it important to differentiate between scholarly and popular sources?

In order to effectively conduct research and produce high quality academic writing, you will need to make decisions about which articles support your thesis best. One factor that will help you decide is the *type of source* an article is published in. Based on the characteristics of each publication, you will be able to support different aspects of your argument. For example, original research by an expert will often provide the most credible information, while an article written by a journalist about popular events will offer good support.

Note: Scholarly journals are also referred to as academic journals or peer-reviewed journals.

## The Exercise:

This exercise will help you to identify the different characteristics of scholarly journals and popular magazines. In an online environment you will have to look for these cues in order to determine the type of source. For a review visit the 'Scholarly vs. Popular Sources' tab in the following guide: [lib.guides.umd.edu/engl101](http://lib.guides.umd.edu/engl101)

Fill in the blanks with the appropriate response:

1. A popular magazine contains articles written by \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Scholarly journal articles refer to previous research in the \_\_\_\_\_ at the end of the article.
3. If a source contains a lot of glossy, full-color photographs and advertisements, it is most likely a \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Before an article is accepted for publication in a scholarly journal, it goes through a process called \_\_\_\_\_.
6. A popular source is written for what kind of audience? \_\_\_\_\_

Use the article citations and images below to decide whether each article is from a scholarly or popular source. Explain your choices.

Jamar, Steven D. "Crafting Copyright Law to Encourage and Protect User-Generated Content in the Internet Social Networking Context." *Widener Law Journal* 19.3 (2010): 843-872. *Academic Search Premier*. EBSCO. Web. 13 Aug. 2010.

CRAFTING COPYRIGHT LAW TO ENCOURAGE AND  
PROTECT USER-GENERATED CONTENT IN THE  
INTERNET SOCIAL NETWORKING CONTEXT

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Online social networking sites like Facebook<sup>1</sup> and YouTube<sup>2</sup> are popular and continue to grow both in the numbers of people and organizations involved and in the services and functions available. The social networking technologies, combined with the

\* Professor of Law, Howard University School of Law, and Associate Director, Institute of Intellectual Property and Social Justice (IIPSJ). This essay was prepared for the *Widener Law Journal* symposium on internet expression, *Internet Expression in the 21st Century: Where Technology and Law Collide*. Pub. Relations, Harrisburg Campus Examines the Internet and the Law, WIDENER L., Mar. 2, 2010, <http://law.widener.edu/NewsandEvents/>

<sup>4</sup> U.S. CONST. art. 1, § 8, cl. 8.

<sup>5</sup> See Edward Lee, *Developing Copyright Practices for User-Generated Content*, J. INTERNET L., July 2009, at 6, 12.

<sup>6</sup> See *infra* text accompanying notes 104-10. Compare *Warner Bros. Entm't Inc. v. RDR Books*, 575 F. Supp. 2d 513, 553-54 (S.D.N.Y. 2008) (holding that the publication of *The Lexicon* was not fair use because too much was taken from J.K. Rowling's works), with *Bridgeport Music, Inc. v. Dimension Films*, 410 F.3d 792, 795-96, 800-05 (6th Cir. 2005) (holding that fair use may be used as a defense against a claim of infringement for a two-second sampling of a sound recording that was modified in pitch and then looped). For an online version of *The Lexicon*, see *The Harry Potter Lexicon*, <http://www.hp-lexicon.org/index-2.html> (last visited May 14, 2010).

Response:

Stafford, Diane. "Grooming your Online Persona." *Women in Business* 62.2 (2010): 36-37. *Academic Search Premier*. EBSCO. Web. 13 Aug. 2010.



**Response:**

**Answer the following question in the space provided below:**

How could using scholarly sources help you to develop *ethos* with the audience of your research paper?  
How could popular sources help you to do this?

**Response:**

