

Scholarly Source Workshop

Scholarly Sources

(apply the following to each source)

What are the author's credentials? Is he or she an expert in the field covered by the source? Is the author affiliated with a research institution?

Source 1.

Source 2.

Source 3.

Who is the author, the publisher, the organization, the sponsor?

(Publishers of scholarly sources include peer-reviewed academic journals, university presses, government-sponsored research organizations, etc.)

Source 1.

Source 2.

Source 3.

Does this source seem to be written for an audience of other researchers?

Source 1.

Source 2.

Source 3.

If it's a website, what is the end of the URL? (.com, .edu, .gov, .org, .net)

(Educational institutions [.edu], the government [.gov], and some non-profit organizations [.org], are more likely to provide scholarly sources online than commercial websites.)

Source 1.

Source 2.

Source 3.

Sources Have Conflicting Ideas

Identify topic: what issues or research questions is each source addressing?

Source 1.

Source 2.

Source 3.

What issues/questions do all the sources address?

(At least part of one source has to address the same topic as at least part of the other source—enough for them to have some disagreement about that topic.)

What do all the sources disagree about?

Do You Need to Replace One of Your Sources?

If any of the sources is not a solidly academic source, or if they do not clearly disagree about something, you need to replace one or more of the sources.

If one of your sources is a good scholarly source on a topic you want to study, see if it names another scholarly source it disagrees with—this can become a new source. (Check its discussion of past research, and its bibliography / works cited.)