



Finding and Evaluating Sources

Library Sources

Different kinds of sources:

- Single-Author Books
- Collections of Essays
- Articles
 - Scholarly journals (peer-reviewed)
 - Magazines (popular interest)
 - Newspapers
- Websites

Popular vs. Scholarly Sources— Telling the Difference

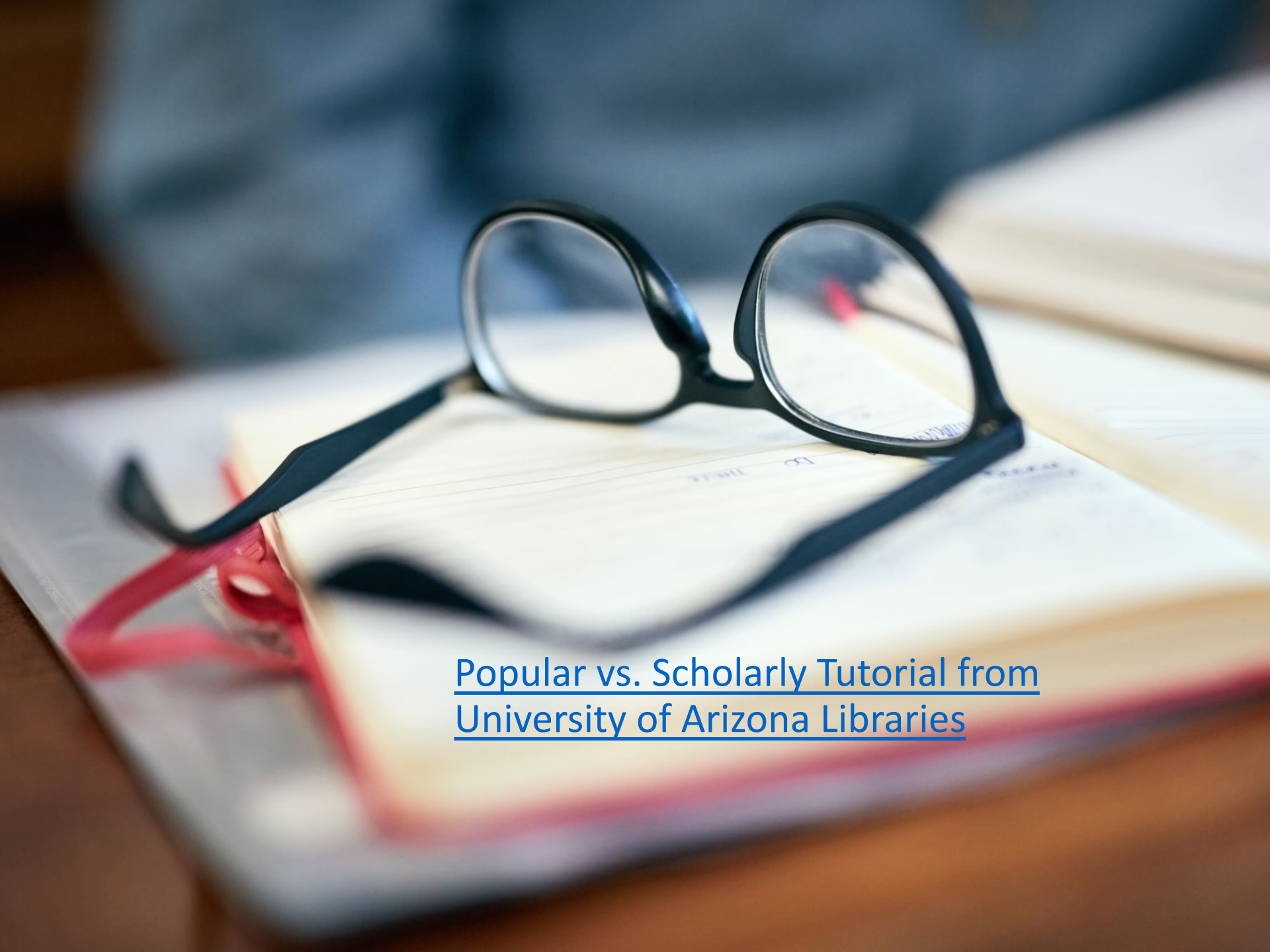
Popular Sources:

- Aim to inform a wide array of readers
- More informal in tone and scope than scholarly sources
- Articles tend to be shorter; do not usually list sources or include footnotes
- Generally are published more frequently than scholarly
- Magazines (*Time*, *Newsweek*, *National Geographic*, etc.)
- Newspapers
- Websites like WebMD, Literary Hub, etc.

Popular vs. Scholarly (cont.)

Scholarly Sources:

- Written by experts for experts—primary audience is scholars and students studying the field
- Based on original research or intellectual inquiry
- Provide citations for all sources used
- Are usually peer-reviewed prior to publication
- Tend to be longer than popular sources
- Generally published quarterly (4 times a year) or less frequently
- Include books and journals such as *Modern Fiction Studies*, *Cinema Journal*, *Shakespeare Quarterly*, etc. etc.

A pair of black-rimmed glasses is resting on an open book. The book has a red bookmark. The background is blurred, showing more books and a wooden surface.

[Popular vs. Scholarly Tutorial from University of Arizona Libraries](#)

Finding Sources



Books

- Library Catalog
- Pascal; Interlibrary Loan

Articles

- Library Databases: Databases provide lists of articles from numerous scholarly journals and other sources. These articles often first appeared in print publications. Sometimes databases provide full text of articles; sometimes they provide bibliographic information and you'll have to track down the article.

Websites

- Internet Searches

Using Databases

Sat Oct 22, 2016 MyCharleston Library Directory Site Index Emergency Info Search CofC Site

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College of Charleston Libraries

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Keyword Title Author Peer Reviewed Articles Only

Advanced Discovery • Classic Catalog • ILL • PASCAL
Delivers • WorldCat

Welcome Back, Faculty

EXTRA! EXTRA!
GOOD NEWS!!

Read our library liaison newsletter for recent updates in library services.

Latest News Quick Info

- Differences between using database and simply doing a google search
- Accessing databases by subject
 - First, go to “view all databases”
 - Then you can browse through the subjects

Useful Databases Getting Beyond the Paywall

For the research project, you'll need to find news articles. The CofC library provides a complete list of news databases. Here are some of the most helpful:

- *Post and Courier*
- News (Gale OneFile)
- Access World News Research Collection
- Newspaper Source Plus
- *New York Times* online
- *Wall Street Journal* online
- Environmental Studies (Gale in Context)
- Political Science Complete

Websites

Information from websites can be useful, but you must evaluate this information carefully before using it.

- Ask the following questions:
 - Who is the author of the website?
 - What authorship clues did the URL provide (.edu, .gov, .org, .com, etc.) and which are most reliable?
 - What are the qualifications of the author or group who created the site?
 - What is the purpose of the webpage or site?
 - Is the information provided objective or subjective?
 - Does the website include contact information?
 - When was the site last revised, modified, or updated? In other words, how current is the information on the site?
 - Is the site well-maintained (are links broken, etc.)?

Some Sample Websites

I-526 Extension

Website 1:

<https://usa.streetsblog.org/2020/12/24/meet-2020s-worst-highway-boondoggles-i-526-extension-south-carolina/>

Website 2:

<https://www.charlestonproperty.net/news/uncategorized/state-local-officials-propose-new-path-for-long-awaited-i-526-extension/>

Website 3:

[https://www.coastalconservationleague.org › projects › i...](https://www.coastalconservationleague.org/projects/i...)