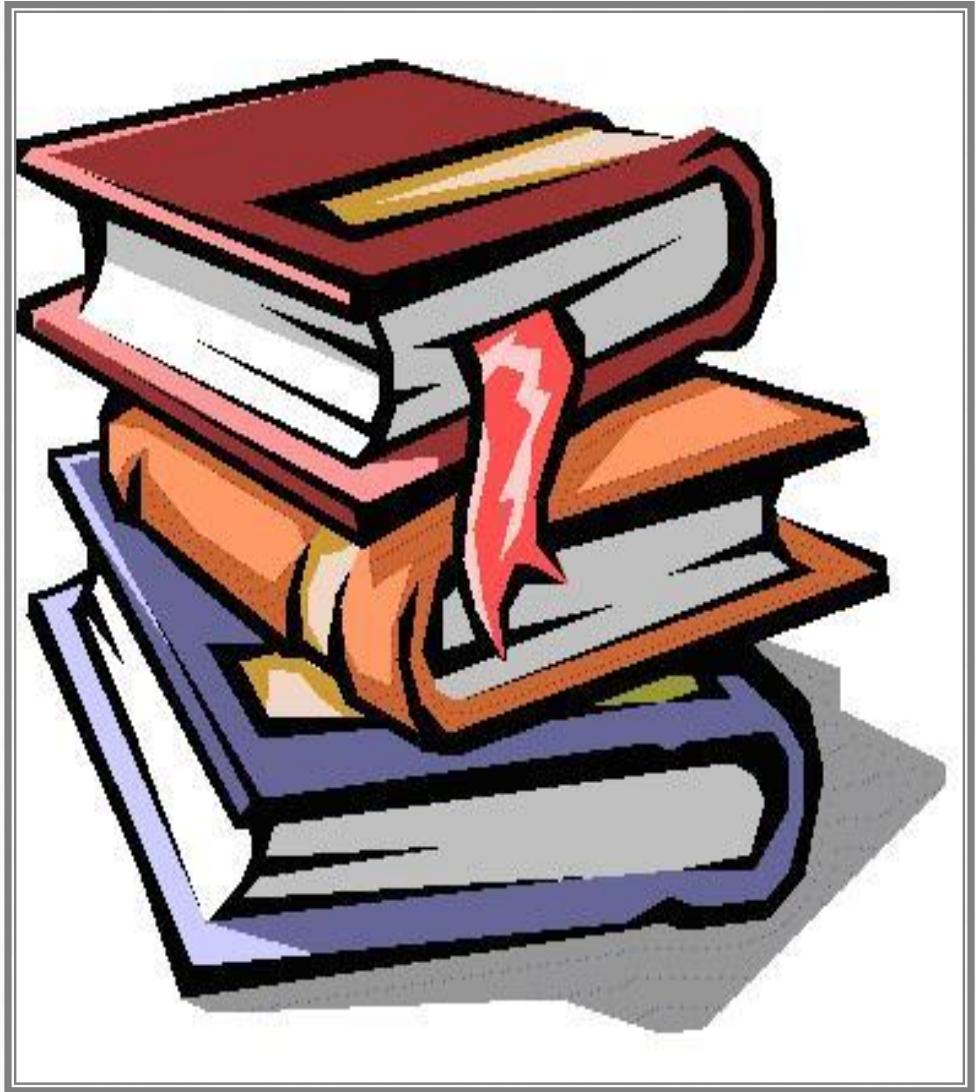


What's Already Known – Part 2

Dr. Wardisiani
Research Core
Science

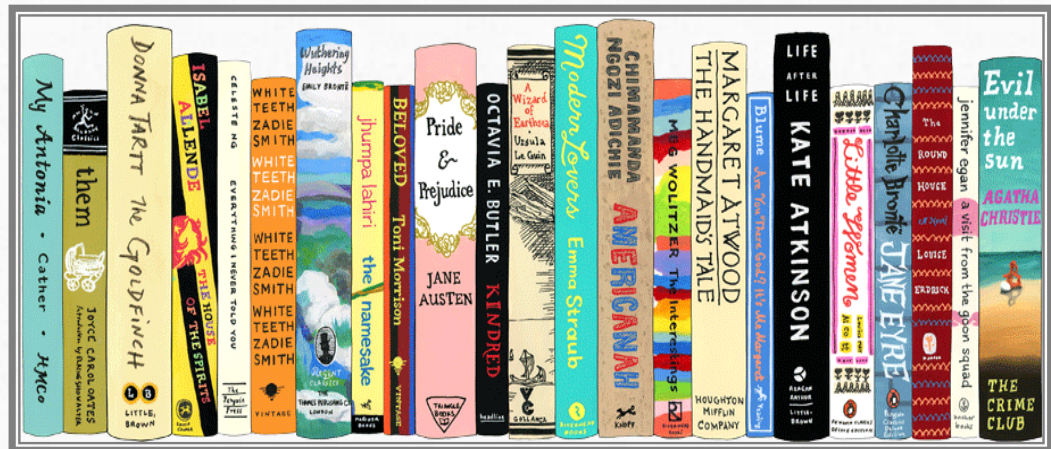
School Year 2021-2022

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Who Is Writing The Articles?

- ❖ Scholarly sources are written by experts. Look at the author's credentials.
- ❖ The author will typically hold a terminal degree in the field—that is, the ultimate degree that one can obtain—or be in the process of acquiring one.





Scholarly Sources = Scholarly Audiences

- ❖ Scholars write scholarly sources for other scholars.

- ❖ If the intended audience is the public, students, government officials, company executives, or friends and family members, then it's usually not considered a scholarly source.
- ❖ If there's a lot of indecipherable jargon and charts; few pictures; no colorful, glossy paper; and citations and footnotes galore, then you've probably found a scholarly source.
- ❖ This will vary by discipline, but scholarly sources generally have a high bar of entry for the average reader



Peer Review Standards

- ❖ Scholarly sources have undergone peer review.

- ❖ A good way of determining whether this is the case is by examining the publisher. Is it a university press like Princeton, Oxford, or Stanford? That's usually a good sign. Likewise, an academic journal such as *Chemical Reviews* will conduct peer review of all submissions.
- ❖ If you review the publisher information, it should have a clear section that discusses its review process.

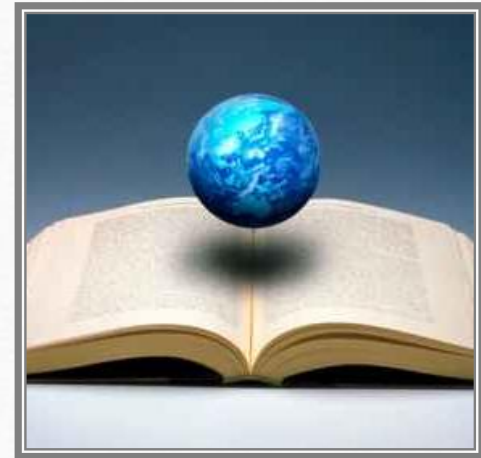
Where To Look For Sources

- ❖ One way to find the sources you need is to find just one or two highly relevant and recent journal articles on your topic.
- ❖ Scholarly articles are usually full of citations and footnotes, so why do the work of tracking down a ton of citations when other scholars have already done that work for you?
- ❖ Find one or two really good, recent articles on your research question and you've got the key to the core of the literature.
- ❖ Go to the bibliography and track down the articles there. Then, do the same with *those* articles.
- ❖ Keep going, and note which articles keep popping up in the bibliography. The ones that keep showing up are likely the core of the literature on the subject.



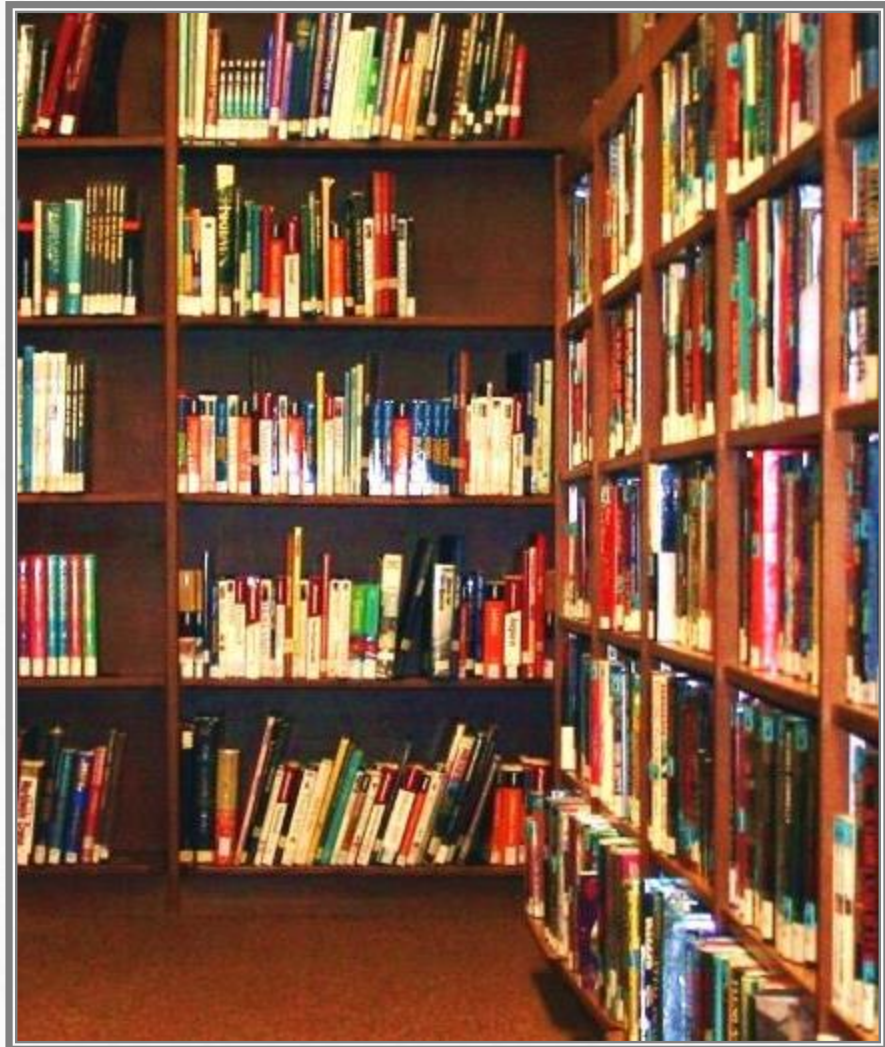
What Else Can I Do?

- ❖ Check the number of citations for a given article. Google Scholar will report that information if you do a search using the article's title. A high citation count means that the article has been consistently cited by other scholars in their work—a good sign that you've found a core part of the literature.
- ❖ Ask a mentor. Your mentor may already know the big names in the field and can direct you to some of the core works you need to know.



Options For Finding Articles

- ❖ Head to your local university library, if there's one near you, and browse the stacks of bound journals.
- ❖ If you go to the website for the professional association in your field, it should identify some of the top journals in your discipline.
- ❖ You could pull out a recent edition and start browsing until you find a relevant article.



Finding Articles Quickly

- ❖ Searching databases on the internet
- ❖ Try a catchall database like EBSCO, Academic Search Premier, or JSTOR.
- ❖ Enter a few relevant search terms and narrow the responses to scholarly sources.
- ❖ You can use the provided subject headings in an article's description to further narrow your results.





Need More Options?

- ❖ That's great for anyone with access to a university library, but many people don't have that option.
- ❖ Still, you'll be able to find some sources available through free search databases, such as Google Scholar.
- ❖ There are also subscription services that let you rent journal access on a monthly basis, such as Deep Dyve, or ones like Academia.edu that allow authors to upload their papers.
- ❖ Your public library may have some resources, and it's possible that you may have alumni access privileges at an institution you previously attended.
- ❖ Some journals, particularly those in the natural sciences, have moved to open-access formats, allowing free public access to their publications.

Thank You!

- **Questions
and
Comments**



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