**What is a Scholarly Source?**

**Video Transcript**

In this video, I want to look at the definition and value of scholarly source materials.

So, what are scholarly sources?

Scholarly sources (also referred to as academic, peer-reviewed, or refereed sources) are written by experts in a particular field and serve to keep others updated on the most recent research, findings, and news for that field. Scholarly sources will provide the most substantial information for your own research.

How can you tell if a source is scholarly? Well, there are certain characteristics and questions that can help you differentiate scholarly sources.

You should evaluate the authors, publisher, audience, and content and ask questions. For example:

- Are the author’s credentials provided?
- Is the publisher an academic institution, scholarly, or professional organization?
- Who is the intended audience of this source?
- Are sources cited in the content?
- Are conclusions based on the evidence provided?

Asking these kinds of questions will help you evaluate scholarly sources for reliability and credibility.

I’ve defined scholarly sources and listed some questions to help you identify them but what is the value of using scholarly sources in your research?

The authority and credibility evident in scholarly sources will contribute a great deal to the overall quality of your research. The use of scholarly sources is also an expected attribute of academic course work.