IS THIS BOOK SCHOLARLY?

Name: ___________________________  Email: ___________________________

Professors normally ask students to use scholarly or "peer-reviewed" sources in their research papers. This is to make sure that you only use the most reliable and highest-quality information available. The list below explains a few easy ways that you can evaluate whether or not a book is considered scholarly.

**PUBLISHER**

Look for "university press" publishers (Oxford University Press, for example). Other academic publishers include Routledge, Taylor & Francis, and Wiley. If you're unsure whether or not a publisher is scholarly, Google the publisher along with the words "scholarly" or "academic."

**AUTHOR'S CREDENTIALS**

The author of a scholarly book will be an expert in a field or subject area. This means that s/he will often hold a PhD and be a professor at a university. Try Googling the author's name to check out his or her credentials.

**CITATIONS & BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Although there's not minimum number of citations that a scholarly book should have, the text of the book should frequently cite other scholarly sources. Be sure to consult the "Notes" or "Bibliography sections, as well. The author should list several pages of sources, at least.

Activity

Review the following two e-books using the criteria listed below. Use the URL to access the e-book's record online at the Kreitzberg Library. Be prepared to defend why you think each book is scholarly or not.

**Book #1**

bit.ly/leadership_ebook

Title

____________________________________

Publisher

____________________________________

Is this publisher academic?  YES or NO

Author

____________________________________

What credentials does the author have?

____________________________________

Is there a substantial bibliography or footnotes section?  YES or NO

Do you think this book should be considered scholarly?  YES or NO

**Book #2**

bit.ly/digging_ebook

Title

____________________________________

Publisher

____________________________________

Is this publisher academic?  YES or NO

Author

____________________________________

What credentials does the author have?

____________________________________

Is there a substantial bibliography or footnotes section?  YES or NO

Do you think this book should be considered scholarly?  YES or NO
Locating the publisher of a book using the Kreitzberg Library record

- Use the URL provided on the previous page to find the e-book’s Kreitzberg Library record
- Click on the “Description” tab as shown below

The publisher is listed on the “Publication” line

- If you aren’t sure whether or not a publisher is academic, try Googling the name of the publisher along with the words “academic” or “scholarly.”

Accessing an e-book to look at its citations and bibliography

- Use the URL provided on the previous page to find the e-book’s Kreitzberg Library record
- Click on the “Access online” button as shown below

- Locate the Table of Contents and see if there is a link to a "Notes" or "Bibliography" section. If not, try clicking through chapters in the book to check for citations or footnotes.
- The bibliography at the end of the book should at least be several pages long.

Checking the author’s credentials

- Try Googling the author’s name along with "professor" or "author." Most authors of scholarly books are professors in their academic field.
- If you have a hard time finding any information about your author, then that may indicate that he or she is not a well-known scholar on a subject.
- When in doubt of an author’s credentials, ask your professor for a second opinion. If you need to make an immediate decision on whether to use a book for your project, skip it unless it is published by a university press!