NOTE: You will be required to use at least 8 secondary sources in your formal report, and a minimum of 3 of those must be scholarly sources.

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Using Scholarly Journals as Sources in Academic Papers

From the John Hopkins University Website

More often than not, you will be expected to use articles from scholarly journals (sometimes referred to as peer-reviewed or refereed journals) as sources for research papers. Here are some characteristics of scholarly journal articles that make them highly useful as sources for academic papers:

--They're written by and for specialists in a particular field

--Articles must go through a peer review process before they're accepted for publication

--This is where original research, or new knowledge, is published for the first time

--These articles tend to have a narrower focus and more analysis of the topic than those in other types of publications

--There are usually cited references or footnotes at the end of research articles

--The author's biography is usually included, and this bio lists the author's education and previous publications.

A common way to find scholary journal articles on your topic is to search article databases online (like Proquest). Some provide the full text of articles; some provide just citations and abstracts. You can specify that you only want scholarly articles in your search.