

## **VIC324: Introduction to Forensic Semiotics**

### **Making Scholarly Choices**

#### **Scholarly Sources**

Scholarly sources report on original research by experts in a particular academic discipline. Often they go through a peer-review process, which means that they are evaluated by reputable scholars in the field before they are published.

#### **Scholarly and Popular Sources**

#### **Criteria for evaluating scholarly journal articles**

Part	Questions to Ask
<b>Author:</b>	Who wrote it?
<b>Sources:</b>	Does the author acknowledge his or her sources? How?
<b>Content:</b>	Is the content substantial? Does it appear to be valid and well-researched? Does it make sense, based on your own background knowledge, or what other articles have to say on the topic?
<b>Writing:</b>	Is the language scholarly? Is the article well written? Do illustrations and data support the content in a scholarly fashion, or do they appear to be attention-getting, or sensational?
<b>Audience:</b>	Who is the article written for? Is it written for experts and researchers in the field, or for members of the general public?
<b>Journal:</b>	Is it published in a scholarly journal?

#### **Is the journal scholarly?**

Is the article published in a scholarly journal? How would you find out?

Investigate the journal using these two strategies:

**1. Visit the journal's website to learn more about the periodical.**

Is it published by a scholarly association such as the Canadian Sociological Association?

Is it published by a university press?

On the journal's website, look for the "about this journal" or "submission guidelines" section to learn about the publication's editorial policy.

**2. Search the journal name in [Ulrichsweb](#) to determine if it is scholarly or peer-reviewed.**

The black and white referee's shirt indicates that the journal is peer-reviewed.

**created by:** Colin Deinhardt | **updated:** 10 October 2019

Last updated: January 9, 2023

**Source URL:** [https://library.vicu.utoronto.ca/research\\_resources/subject\\_course\\_guides/VIC324](https://library.vicu.utoronto.ca/research_resources/subject_course_guides/VIC324)