Scholarly vs. Popular Sources

Library Instruction Session – Curriculum Infusion Example

Provide a brief overview of the difference between scholarly and popular sources

- Scholarly articles
  - Written by experts in the field and will include their credentials
  - Have bibliographies of works cited
  - Use specialized terminology of the field
- Popular works, such as magazine and newspaper articles,
  - Written for the general public
  - Avoid specialized terminology of the field
  - Do not have bibliographies
  - May be written by authors who have no expertise on the topic

Conduct a hands-on activity to reinforce the difference between scholarly and popular sources

- Break students into four groups and send each group to a computer
- From the JMU Libraries website, have students use the Quick Search widget and conduct the following search: alcohol and high-risk and college

Research

- Two groups will limit the search results to Academic Journals and two groups will limit the search to Periodicals

- Conduct a class discussion having each group report to the class
  - Scholarly sources groups: What information did you find in the articles? What characteristics helped you recognize this as a scholarly source?
  - Popular sources groups: What information did you find in the articles? What characteristics helped you recognize this as a popular source?