### Types of Resources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resource</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Clues</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Scholarly articles**       | • Written by experts in an academic discipline.  
• Can be research – primary or secondary.  
• Can be non-research - *Educational / informative articles, for example*  
• Longer articles (4 or more pages)  
• Author is an expert in the field  
• Substantial reference list  
• Published in a peer-reviewed journal. |                                                                                           |
| Scholarly Non-research       | • Written by practitioners or experts in the field or discipline.  
• Purpose is often to educate, inform, provide an overview, summarize without any analysis.  
• *Educational, informative, continuing education*  
• *Historical overview, summary on a topic.*                                                                 | Look for terms such as: educate, provide information, overview, summary, explains or examines  
• Missing analysis, synthesis, methods, study design, results, discussion, conclusion, etc. |
| **Research articles**        |                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                           |
| Secondary Research (Powers and Knapp, 161) | • A synthesis of various research findings on a topic  
• Systematic review of the literature on a topic  
• May provide interpretation, explanation, summary or description of primary research on a topic.  
• Writer(s) not involved in the original research sources being examined, synthesized, or reviewed. | Mentions: Systematic review, Research synthesis, or Meta-synthesis, or systematic review of the literature.  
• Methods explain searches conducted in databases. Lists databases, terms, & criteria for inclusion/ exclusion. |
| **Primary Research articles** |                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                           |
| Primary Research (Powers and Knapp, 136) | • Author: researcher(s) directly involved with the research being reported on.  
• Source of original data / insights.  
• Contains firsthand records of study, experiments, data collection, etc. (May or may not use “I”/”We”)  
• Look for mention of methods, or research design, or study design.  
• Outline of methodology  
• Explanation of hypothesis  
• Description of the population or sample  
• Report of results / data generated                                                                 |                                                                                           |
| Qualitative Research (Shields and Twycross, 24) | • A type of research method used when a question needs to be described and investigated in some depth. Uses words, descriptions, and texts to explore meaning.  
• Data may be collected with interviews, narratives, stories, focus groups  
• Insight into behaviours, attitudes, ideas  
• Non statistical                                                                 |                                                                                           |
| Quantitative Research (Shields and Twycross, 24) | • A type of research method used when something needs to be measured. Usually contains numbers, proportions and statistics.  
• Results reported in quantified amounts, facts, figures, statistics, numbers                                                                 |                                                                                           |
| Evaluative Research (Powers and Knapp, 53) | • A type of research that employed research methods to meet program or practice needs.  
• Assesses the quality of care or services rendered.  
• Focus on a program or practice in a specific location or service.  
• Can be qualitative or quantitative                                                                 |                                                                                           |
| Theoretical Research (Powers and Knapp, 176) | • A type of research that sets statements that tentatively describe, explain or predict relationships between ideas.  
• An example is a concept analysis.  
• Focus on ideas, concepts or relationships  
• Can be qualitative or quantitative                                                                 |                                                                                           |

At least 3 pages? Many cited references? Author an expert (with credentials)? Published in “peer-reviewed” journal?

**NO**

**UNSURE**

**YES**

**Scholarly article**

Is there a “methods,” “methodology,” or “research methods” section?

**NO**

**Primary Research article (scholarly)**

Check the abstract: Does the article report on original research that has been conducted by the authors? Does it describe the process or methodology?

**YES**

**Quantitative Research article**

Results include numerical data or statistics?

**NO**

**Mixed-methods Research article**

Results focus on numerical data, measures, statistics?

**YES**

**Qualitative Research article**

Check for deep Discussion or Analysis of concepts or ideas?

**NO**

**Secondary Research (scholarly)**

• Trade journal
• Magazine
• Raw data

**Non-Scholarly**

CHECK GOOGLE:
Can you confirm journal is peer-reviewed? Can you find author’s affiliation & credentials?

**YES**

**Scholarly, Non-Research**

• Educational article
• Historical overview
• Summary

Review article & start again! Still unsure? Ask the Library!