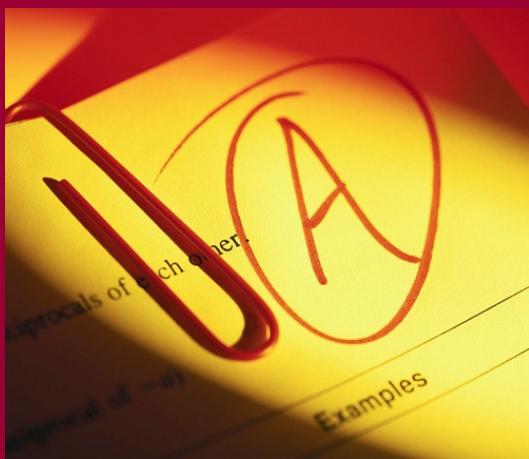




Social Work 1A6: Intro to Library Research

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Outline

1. You need scholarly information!
2. Exploring the Virtual Library
3. Exploring the Physical Library
4. Evaluating Information

Scholarly (peer-reviewed) information:

- is also known as ‘refereed’ information
- is written *by* and *for* researchers, academics, professors
- is written in the language of the discipline, not for a general reader
- is reviewed by other experts before it is published
- has few advertisements
- provides illustrations only to support the research (graphs, charts etc.); NOT glossy pictures
- clearly indicates sources used (references or bibliography)

Social Work Examples:

Scholarly/Peer reviewed (most are online):

- [Australian Social Work](#)
- [The British journal of social work](#)
- [Canadian Social Work](#)
- [Native Social Work Journal](#) (paper only)

General Interest (Not “refereed”)

- [Maclean's](#)
- [Newsweek](#)

Scholarly Information is found....

- in books, in journals, on websites....
- by using search engines (SE)
- there are thousands of SE. 2 examples:

Scholars Portal Search

- library database subscription
- need your MAC ID



Look for find it @mac to link to library subscriptions

Why use a book for information?

- broad overview of a topic
- good source of background information
- provides context



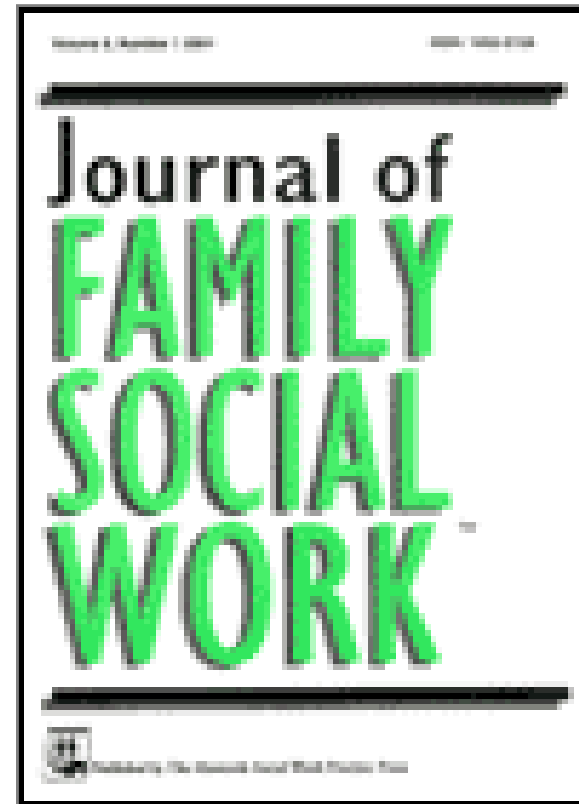
[[image credit](#)]

Social Work 1A6

Why use a journal for information?

Articles are:

- focused on a specific sub-topic
- in-depth



Explore the Virtual Library.....

1. Library webpage <http://library.mcmaster.ca/>
2. To find books ->Search *Library catalogue*
3. To find articles (using Scholars Portal Search):
 1. Click on *Databases* Tab
 2. Type *scholarsportal*
 3. Choose *scholarsportal search*

Evaluating Information....

- Use more than one source
- How do the different sources fit with each other? Complementary? Contradictory?
- Use more than one type (book, articles, websites)

Evaluating Information. Think about:

- Accuracy (errors? Comprehensive?)
- Authority (who wrote this?!? What are the author's credentials? Is the publisher reputable?)
- Objectivity (minimum of bias? fair, balanced and reasonable? without conflict of interest?)
- Currency (when written? Updated?)

Explore the Physical Library.....

- [Long Hours](#) (till 2am Oct-Dec; Feb - Apr)
- [Book a Group \(3 or more\) Study Room](#)
- [Find books](#) and sign them out (student card)

Puzzled? Confused? Got Questions?



[\[image credit\]](#)

Need Help? Just Ask!

Visit: Research Help Desk, Mills 2nd Floor

Call: 905.525.9140 x 22533

Email: library@mcmaster.ca

MSN: library@mcmaster.ca

AOL/Yahoo!: maclibraries



[\[image credit\]](#)