Scholarly Sources

Let’s say you have to write a paper on community programs and their impact in urban neighborhoods. You need to use at least 3 scholarly sources.

WHAT ARE SCHOLARLY SOURCES?

- Written by experts in a particular field of study.
- Shares original research or analyzes the research of others.
- Provides citations for all sources used.
- Most times goes through a “peer review” process.

WHY ARE THEY IMPORTANT?

- Scholarly sources build on previous ideas and discoveries.
- Through citations they continue the conversation about those discoveries and concepts.
- They create the opportunity for new knowledge through research done by students.

HOW DO YOU FIND AND ACCESS THEM?

- Library databases (USC subscribes to over 1300!)
  - http://libguides.usc.edu/socialwork/databases
- Choose the database that most closely matches your topic!
- Use keywords to find research articles (peer reviewed) on your topic.
- Don’t be afraid to try a couple different databases!