



# USC Libraries

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*Education LibGuide: <http://libguides.usc.edu/education>*

**Remote Access:** The library's Web site provides seamless access to electronic resources. When you click a link to a restricted resource from the Web site, you will be prompted to log in to the proxy server with your USC ID (the first part of your USC e-mail address) and password. After logging in, you will be directed automatically to the desired resource

**ILLiad/IDD:** Interlibrary Loan and Instant Document Delivery Request

**Find It @ USC:**



Google Scholar enables you to search specifically for scholarly literature, including peer-reviewed reviewed papers, theses, books, preprints, abstracts, and technical reports from all broad areas of research. Use Google Scholar to find articles from a wide variety of academic publishers, professional societies, preprint repositories and universities, as well as scholarly articles available across the web.

**Information Literacy:**

1. Finding Information
2. Evaluating Information
3. Using Information

# *Evaluating Information Sources*

Scholarly Articles, Research Articles and Peer Reviewed Articles? Terms are often confused or use incorrectly. It is important to understand what these mean as you begin to become a critical consumer of information.

## **Scholarly Articles**

1. Come from a scholarly source such as a journal, proceedings from a conference and association publications.
2. Written for academics and practitioners.
3. May or may not be peer reviewed.
4. May or may not be a research article.

## **Research Articles**

1. Reports on a research study.
2. As opposed to a theoretical article.
3. From a scholarly source.
4. Generally will have method and results sections.
5. May or may not be peer reviewed.

**Peer Review:** A process that editors/publishers of scholarly journals used to attempt quality control.

- Authors submit articles to publishers for publication.
- Editors choose peer reviewers (someone who is specialized in the area of article).
- The article is sent to peer reviewers (numbers vary) who edit and make comments for publisher.
- Publisher decides to print or not based on comments (publish, not publish or publish with edits by author).

**Journal Rankings:** These are important for scholars publishing and for information consumers.

*Journal Citation Reports*® offers a systematic, objective means to critically evaluate the world's leading journals, with quantifiable, statistical information based on citation data. ISI factor.

The **impact factor**, often abbreviated **IF**, is a measure reflecting the average number of citations to articles published in science and social science journals. It is frequently used as a proxy for the relative importance of a journal within its field, with journals with higher impact factors deemed to be more important than those with lower ones.

**Eigenfactor scores** and Article Influence scores are calculated by [eigenfactor.org](http://eigenfactor.org), where they can be freely viewed. Eigenfactor scores are intended to give a measure of how likely a journal is to be used, and are thought to reflect how frequently an average researcher would access content from that journal

**H-Factors** evaluate individual scientists still controversial.

## Evaluating Content of Articles

Sampling

Internal and External Validity

Use of Measurement Tools

Analytical Techniques (variables and questions)