Activity: Compare Information Sources

# ACTIVITY #1: Popular vs. Peer-reviewed article

## INTRO

* Review Tips for Reading a Scholarly Article

## Instructions

Read the following two sources on the same topic:

* Stockton, N. (2015, August 11). Big question: Is my cat making me crazy? *Wired*. <https://www.wired.com/2015/08/big-question-cat-making-crazy/>
* Fuller Torrey, E., Simmons, W., & Yolken, R. (2015). [Is childhood cat ownership a risk factor for schizophrenia later in life?](https://msu-primo.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/f/rbfqn8/TN_cdi_crossref_primary_10_1016_j_schres_2015_03_036) *Schizophrenia Research,* *165*(1), 1-2.

1. What is different about these two articles?
2. Can you trust the information the same coming from all these places? Why or why not?
3. When would you use each type of source?

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# ACTIVITY #2: Compare Search Results from Different Places (10 mins)

## INTRO

* [**Review bias**](https://guides.lib.montana.edu/evaluatinginformation/bias) and [**Astroturfing**](https://guides.lib.montana.edu/evaluatinginformation/crossreference)

## Instructions

1. Get in a group of 3.
2. Each person searches their own topic,
   * One person searches using **CatSearch** from the library website
   * one person searches using **Google Scholar**, and
   * one person searches using a **Search Engine** like Google/Bing/DuckDuckGo, etc.
3. Which place did you search?
4. What types of information sources did you find? Articles, news, images, videos, books, etc.
5. Share your results with your group & Discuss the following questions:

* What differences & similarities are there between the sources each group member found?
* Does any the information look persuasive or biased? Does it use astroturfing?
* When would it be appropriate to use all of those different sources? i.e. biased piece would not be appropriate for a factual overview, but would be appropriate for paper showing the range of human opinions on a topic)