Scholarly and Non-Scholarly Sources

Both can have different uses in your research.

Scholarly Sources:
(Examples: Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles, Some Books, Some Data Reports)

These usually...

- Communicate research findings for other scholars in a field of study
- Are written by scholars, researchers, or scientists
- Are evaluated by other scholars before publication
- Use more technical language
- Are longer
- Have sections like abstract, literature review, methods, discussion, bibliography
  - Their literature review or introduction sections are usually great places for solid background about what has been studied in a field

Non-Scholarly Sources:
(Examples: Newspapers, Magazines, Blogs, Some Books)

These usually...

- Are for news, opinion, entertainment, or advertising
- Are written by staff writers, journalists, or others who may not be researchers in a field
- Don’t have a bibliography
- Use less technical language
- Are shorter
- Are more likely to have images or advertising