Scholarly Articles vs. Popular Articles

Authors

Scholarly Articles
• Researchers and scholars such as university professors

Popular Articles
• Staff writers such as journalists and freelance writers

Audience

Scholarly Articles
• Professors, students, and other researchers

Popular Articles
• General public

Purpose

Scholarly Articles
• To present and share original research or experiments

Popular Articles
• To inform, entertain or persuade the general public

Language

Scholarly Articles
• Formal, technical, and specialized

Popular Articles
• Everyday language

References

Scholarly Articles
• Footnotes, endnotes, bibliography, suggested reading
Popular Articles

- Typically few or no citations

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Adapted from Popular vs. Scholarly Sources (McMaster)

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