

Types of Literary Sources Used by Academics

Academic Journals

Journals contains articles written by experts in a particular field. Every article published in an academic journal has been reviewed by other academics to check that it is worthwhile, accurate and coherent. This is called being 'peer reviewed'. The main audience of these articles is other academics or experts. And this is where the most useful information for your assignments can be found. You can access 1000s of them through the university library website. All articles are available online.



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Journal articles tend to

- use scholarly or technical language
- include a full bibliography of sources cited in the article

Current Affairs Magazines or Newspapers

Articles from these more popular sources can be useful. They can be used to introduce you to a topic and show how it is being discussed.

However, articles in these types of publications tend to be:

- written by journalists (typically non-experts with just a little prior knowledge of the subject)
- avoid technical language
- do not provide a bibliography
- contain opinions and analysis



Climate activist Greta Thunberg photographed on the shore in Lisbon, Portugal December 4, 2019 Photograph by Evgenia Arbugaeva for TIME



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Professional or Trade sources

Trade publications are written for and by practitioners.

They contain information on the news and trends in a certain area or trade, and they tend to avoid scholarly approaches.

Articles are written by practitioners using the language of the trade.

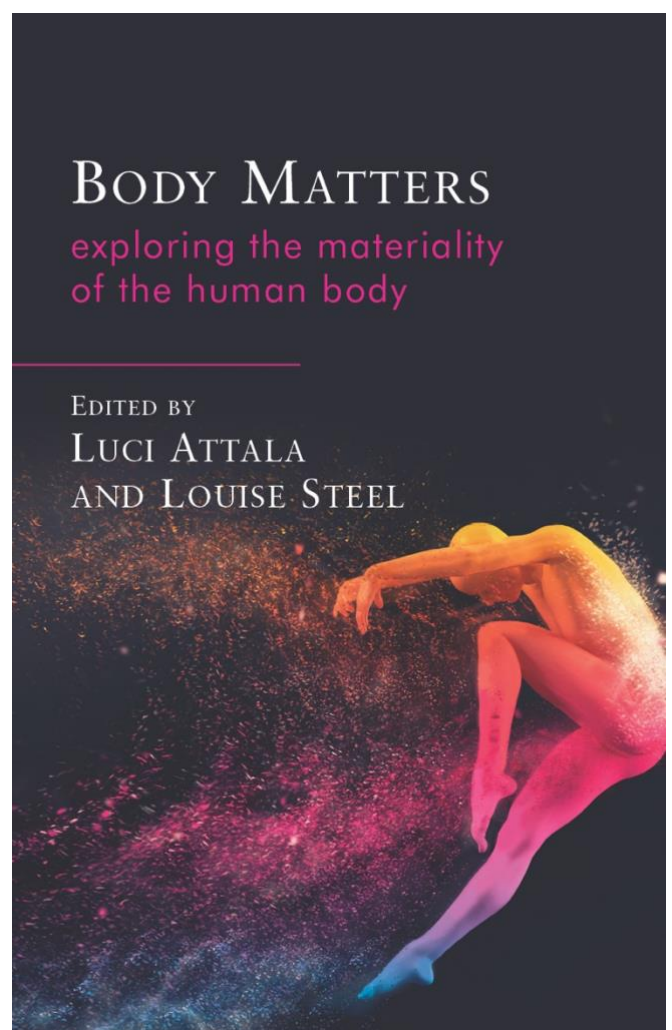
Books / Book Chapters

Academic books are written and edited by either an expert or group of experts.

They provide useful information for your studies.

They tend to also be peer reviewed as academic journal articles are.

This makes them excellent sources to use.



Conference proceedings

Academics regularly attend conferences where they deliver papers about their research. These can sometimes be accessed through libraries or conference websites., or if the conference organisers have produced a publication. These can be peer-reviewed.

Government Documents

Governments provide lots of useful disseminates information about changes in policy, laws and the investigations they are engaged in. Consequently, government 'publish reports, data, statistics, white papers, consumer information, transcripts of hearings, and more. Some of the information published by government offices is technical and scientific. Other information is meant for the general public.' (NMSU 2021)

Theses & Dissertations

Graduate students' research theses and dissertations are stored in university libraries and available for you to read. These documents are written under guidance from the student's supervisor and are reviewed by academic committees, but they are not considered peer-reviewed nor strictly speaking are they publications.

References

NMSU 2021 *Understanding and Evaluating Sources* [online] available at:
<https://nmsu.libguides.com/sources/types>