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# Scholarly Articles

## Searching for Scholarly Articles

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- At some point in your academic career you will probably be asked to locate and use a scholarly or academic resource
- A scholarly article is one contained in a scholarly journal (also called academic, "peer-reviewed" or refereed journals). Several features of popular magazines and scholarly journals make it relatively easy to distinguish one from the other, once you know what to look for
- Why are these important to you
  - A scholarly article is not an opinion piece
  - A scholarly article is not an advertisement
  - A scholarly article is not a glossy sales brochure
  - A scholarly article is a short document written by experts on a particular topic to convey new information
  - They provide verifiable and reliable evidence for claims. Even if the resource is a general history/overview it will contain well researched information that the reader can verify

# Scholarly Articles

- You are studying at University Level for either a Masters degree or a Bachelors degree.
- Scholarly articles should be the only type of articles you refer to because of the credentials of the authors
  - For example Wikipedia is not a scholarly source and should never be used as a reference
    - (You do not know who the authors are or what their credentials are)
- What makes scholarly article special is the "Peer Review" Process
  - See the video [What is a scholarly article](#)

- Peer reviewed Journals or Conferences require that articles are read and evaluated by experts in the field before they are accepted for publication
  - This is what makes scholarly articles “Special”
- The Peer Review Process
  - Peer reviewed (also called "refereed") is a rigorous selection process of publications by scholars in the field
  - Getting research published in refereed journals usually involves three or four steps
    - First, the researcher must submit an article manuscript for consideration
    - Second, the journal editors will send the submission to other scholars who do similar work and who are qualified to review the article. Generally, editors will send submissions to be reviewed by three other scholars
    - Third, editors will evaluate the reviews and decide whether to reject or accept the submission. Usually, the response is either a rejection or an acceptance contingent on the author making revisions
    - If the author is asked to make revisions, they must then complete the fourth step, which is to resubmit the article for another round of reviews. Sometimes the article is accepted at this point and other times authors are asked to make further revisions
    - The process is meant to make sure that only the best, most clearly written and rigorously researched articles are published

# Scholarly Articles

- Although most scholarly articles are refereed or peer reviewed, some are not
  - You need to check the credential of the authors and their affiliation
    - Are the authors affiliated with a University or research institute
    - Are the authors qualified eg, PhD, (or minimum Masters degree)
    - Is the article located on a University or Research Institute database or web site

- How to Identify a Scholarly, Peer-Reviewed Article: A Checklist of Criteria
  - Is the author a researcher and scholar, freelance journalist, or professional in the field? Confirm the author(s) have advanced degrees and/or credentials. Does the author(s) have an affiliation or association? For example, do they work at a university, hospital, or similar knowledge-based organization?
  - Is the scope and topic narrowly defined with a theoretical and/or technical focus (scholarly), centered on professional practice (trade), or broad and general (popular)? Is the content research-based and analytical with the aim of creating new knowledge? Or is the intention to merely persuade, entertain, inform, or report?
  - Does it have a clear structure that indicates a scientific research study? For example, an abstract followed by sections indicating the study's purpose, design, results and discussion of findings? In general, the less structured it is the more it is likely NOT a scholarly source.

- How to Identify a Scholarly, Peer-Reviewed Article: A Checklist of Criteria (continued)
  - Is the language formal and technical (scholarly), professional jargon (trade), or plain and simple (popular)? Would the general public be able to understand the article, or does it require a higher level of education and knowledge? A scholarly, peer-reviewed article will have an objective point of view and logical, argumentative tone with many citations to published research that support its claims.
  - Go to the website or description and read the "About" or "Aims and Scope" sections. Is the primary purpose to publish new knowledge and original research (scholarly), provide news and information relevant to professional practice (trade), or entertain, persuade, and inform (popular)? Is the visual appearance of the website plain, with minimal advertising and colour? Or is it colourful and flashy with a lot of graphics and advertisements?

# Scholarly Articles

## Applying the Checklist to a Scholarly, Peer-Reviewed Article:

Appearance is plain and simple throughout, with minimal use of colour and no advertising

Evidence-Based Criminal Justice Policy for Canada: An Exploratory Study of Public Opinion and the Perspective of Mental Health and Legal Professionals

Title is lengthy and specific

**News Crime Coverage, Public Perception, and Public Policy**

Extensive reviews on news crime coverage and public opinion that research has demonstrated that pictures of an unrepresented volume of violence and serious crime in the media that is not reflected in actual crime statistics (Heath & Gilbert, 1996; Levitt, Vito, & Latham, 2002; Tansing, 2005). Recent positive relationships have been established between media crime coverage and public perceptions of actual crime rates and crime severity, as well as news coverage being more negative and ratings of crime as a serious public policy concern (Kawachi, Kawanishi, & Okafor, 1999; Tansing, 2005). These relationships may explain why, despite consistent downward trends in crime over the past few decades, Canadians continue to believe that crime has either remained constant or has increased (Bartens, 2007; Statistics Canada, 2012). Given this, it is possible that media coverage of crime in Canada provided a persuasive platform supporting the Bill C-10 amendments.

**Public Opinion Research**

Generally speaking, public opinion can be influenced by the dissemination of research and reviews on academic information. People may alter their opinions when faced with research evidence that identifies erroneous or misinterpreted knowledge, particularly when the information is of personal importance (Cohen, Chikowski, & Hodge, 2008; Wilton & Kawanishi, 2001). Such articles change or exhibit in behaviors such as taking daily aspirin as a preventive measure against heart disease, adopting a healthy lifestyle, in similar cases of cigarettes, or recycling to help reduce waste and protect the environment (Dove et al., 2002; Wilton & Kawanishi, 2001). These behavioral changes took place as a result of research evidence that convinced people that these changes were important (Cohen et al., 2000; Wilton & Kawanishi, 2001). Change in public opinion can, over time, also influence public policy (Kawachi, 1996), however, by itself and colleagues over the past three decades has demonstrated that providing research is an important consideration in assessing public opinion regarding the Canadian criminal justice system (Cook, 2008; Cook & Roberts, 1984; Cook, Speer, Martens, & Verna, 1986). These processes are important in understanding why the presentation of social science research is important to be able to affect public opinion (Kawachi, 1996).

**Purpose and Goals of the Study**

The purpose of this research was to compare public opinion with the opinions of mental health and legal professionals prior to and after the presentation of evidence-based research. Public opinion was assessed to examine whether research to empirical evidence would change public opinion of justice policy. Given the overwhelming support for evidence-based justice policy in the literature, we were interested in examining the impact of knowledge and education of empirical evidence on public opinion of one of Canada's most recent justice policy amendments.

**Method**

The current research was a mixed method exploratory study based on public and professional opinions of four key aspects of the

Abstract describes the scope of the article using advanced language, describing the purpose and design of the research study

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Authors are affiliated with a university

N. Kate Bouffield, Alana N. Cook, and Ronald Roesch, Department of Psychology, Simon Fraser University. Correspondence concerning this article should be addressed to Ronald Roesch, Department of Psychology, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, BC, V5A 1S6, email: rroesch@sfu.ca

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Presents an original research study with data and analysis of findings

**Results**

**Qualitative Analysis**

Open-ended questions were conducted to compare public and professional public participants as well as the professional opinions of mental health and legal professionals with underlying assumptions of the Bill C-10 amendments. The most indicated item for the public participants, there was a significant decrease in perceived ( $M = 3.50, SD = 1.23$ ) to perceived ( $M = 3.23, SD = 2.01$ ),  $t(87) = 3.09, p < .01, d = .34$ , as reasonable (i.e., justified) and significant decrease from previous ( $M = 4.08, SD = 1.41$ ) to posttest ( $M = 3.65, SD = 1.39$ ),  $t(84) = 4.19, p < .01, d = .72$ , on the adult sentences item. There was also a significant decrease in the perception ( $M = 3.19, SD = 1.12$ ) and the previous ( $M = 3.42, SD = 1.79$ ) conditional sentence item,  $t(85) = 2.59, p < .01, d = .30$ . The only item that was not

Table 1  
Public and Professional Support for Four Key Aspects of the Bill C-10 Amendments

Item	Public		Professional		t	p	Cohen's d
	M	SD	M	SD			
Reasonable	3.42	1.22	3.23	1.28	0.76	.452	.06
Significant	3.50	1.23	3.23	1.75	0.47	.641	.04
Justified	4.08	1.41	3.65	1.39	1.02	.314	.14
Conditional	3.75	1.52	3.40	1.63	1.00	.320*	.14
Adult sentences	3.50	1.39	3.23	1.38	0.22	.828	.01
Adult sentences	3.19	1.12	3.42	1.74	1.18	.243	.18
Conditional sentence	3.19	1.12	3.42	1.74	1.17	.251	.18
Conditional sentence	3.19	1.12	3.42	1.74	1.17	.251	.18

Structured with sections and subheadings indicating an original research study:


- Abstract
- Purpose
- Methods & Procedures

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# Scholarly Articles

## Distinguishing Scholarly Articles

Meriam Library  California State University, Chico

	<b>SCHOLARLY *</b> American Economic Review Journal of Communication Educational Theory	<b>TRADE</b> Advertising Age Industry Week Progressive Grocer	<b>NEWS OR OPINION</b> New Republic Scientific American U.S. News & World Report	<b>POPULAR</b> People Glamour Shape
<b>Examples</b> }				
<b>Purpose</b>	-to inform and report on original research or experimentation to the rest of the scholarly world	-to provide news and information to people in a particular industry or profession	-to provide general information to an educated lay audience	-to entertain or persuade -a not so hidden agenda is to sell products or services
<b>Cited Sources</b>	-has substantial footnotes and/or bibliographies	-occasionally include brief footnotes and/or bibliographies	-occasionally include brief bibliographies	-rarely include bibliographies
<b>Authors</b>	-scholars or researchers in the field, discipline, or specialty	-practitioners or educators within the industry or profession	-magazine staff writers or free-lance writers	-magazine staff writers or free-lance writers
<b>Language</b>	-technical terminology appropriate to the discipline -reader is assumed to have a similar scholarly background	-jargon of the industry or profession -reader is assumed to have background in the field	-language geared to educated layperson -does not emphasize a specialty but does assume a certain level of education	-simple language in order to meet a minimum education level
<b>Article Appearance</b>	-graphs, charts, and photographs that support the research -articles are lengthy and often structured into these sections: abstract, literature review, methodology, results, conclusion, bibliography	-photographs and illustrations used to support the article but also for aesthetic purposes to draw in readers -brief articles with no structure	-photographs and illustrations used to support the article but also for aesthetic purposes to draw in readers -usually brief articles but can be longer and sometimes structured	-photographs and illustrations used for aesthetic purposes to draw in readers -brief articles with no structure
<b>Journal Appearance</b> (if applicable)	-plain format, usually black and white -little or no advertising	-attractive glossy format, lots of color -extensive advertising aimed at people in the field	-attractive glossy format, lots of color -extensive advertising aimed at the general public	-attractive glossy format, lots of color -extensive advertising aimed at the general public

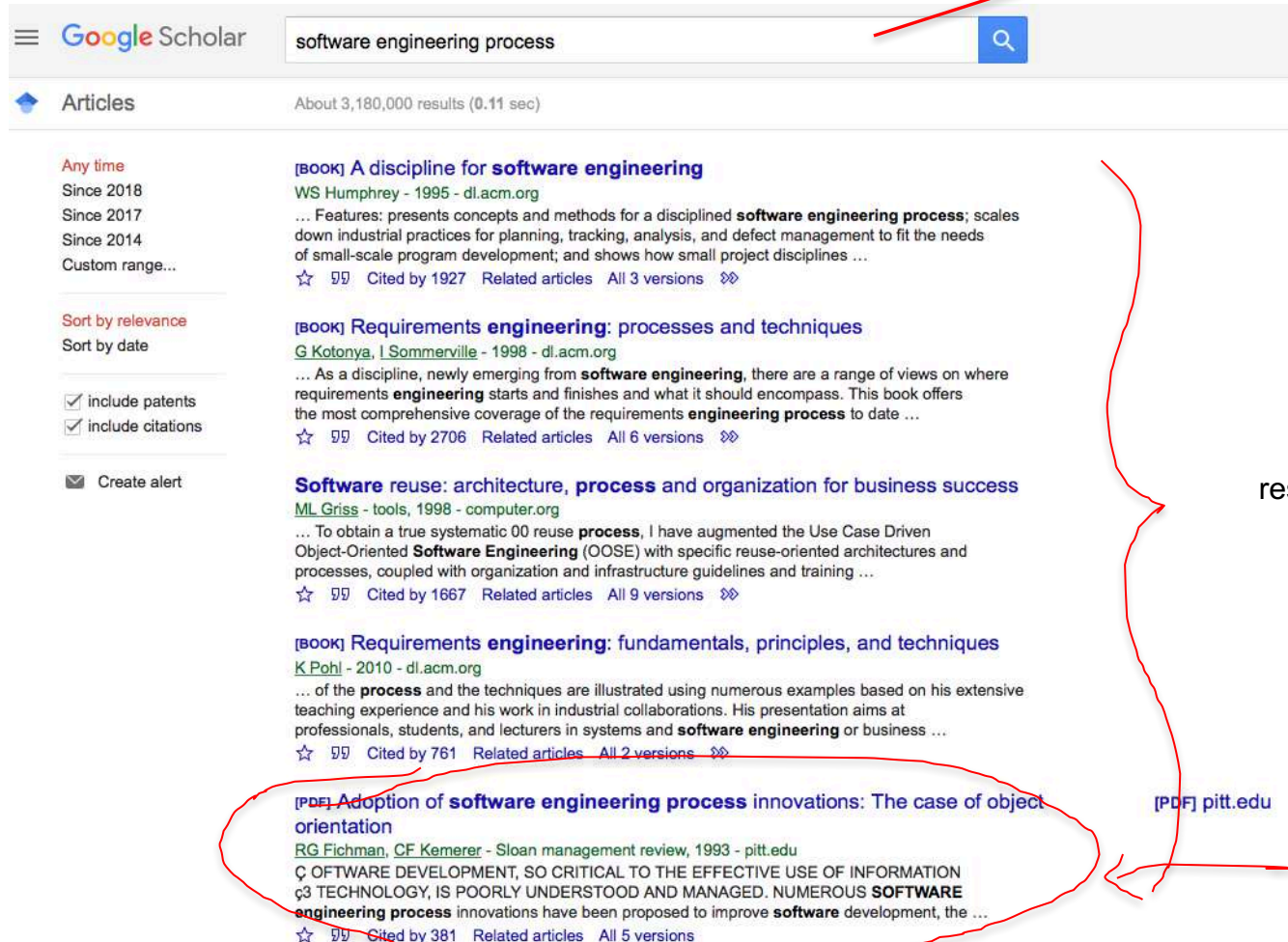
\*Scholarly articles are sometimes referred to as refereed or peer reviewed. Articles appearing in refereed or peer reviewed journals are read and evaluated by experts in the field before they are accepted for publication.

- Google Scholar is a good place to begin a search
  - It provides a simple way to broadly search for scholarly literature. From one place, you can search across many disciplines and sources: articles, theses, books, abstracts and court opinions, from academic publishers, professional societies, online repositories, universities and other web sites
  - But check your articles you find using the previous checklists
  - <https://scholar.google.com.au>

# Scholarly Articles

- Example of Google Scholar
  - Search of software Engineering papers

Search term



The screenshot shows the Google Scholar interface. The search bar contains the text "software engineering process" and a magnifying glass icon. Below the search bar, it indicates "Articles" and "About 3,180,000 results (0.11 sec)". On the left side, there are filters for "Any time" (with sub-options: Since 2018, Since 2017, Since 2014, Custom range...), "Sort by relevance" and "Sort by date", and checkboxes for "include patents" and "include citations". There is also a "Create alert" option. The search results list several articles. The first three are books: "A discipline for software engineering" by WS Humphrey (1995), "Requirements engineering: processes and techniques" by G Kotonya and I Sommerville (1998), and "Software reuse: architecture, process and organization for business success" by ML Griss (1998). The fourth is another book: "Requirements engineering: fundamentals, principles, and techniques" by K Poh (2010). The fifth result, which is circled in red, is a PDF article titled "Adoption of software engineering process innovations: The case of object orientation" by RG Fichman and CF Kemerer (1993) from pitt.edu. The article snippet reads: "SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT, SO CRITICAL TO THE EFFECTIVE USE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, IS POORLY UNDERSTOOD AND MANAGED. NUMEROUS SOFTWARE engineering process innovations have been proposed to improve software development, the ...".

results

[look at this one](#)

# Scholarly Articles

- You can also use Google to search for articles
  - You will find many more search items but there will be many that are not scholarly in nature
  - Eg ... Searching for the same term “Software Engineering Process in google gives

## ~~Software development process - Wikipedia~~

~~[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Software\\_development\\_process](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Software_development_process) ▼~~

~~In software engineering, a software development process is the process of dividing software development work into distinct phases to improve design, product management, and project management. It is also known as a software development life cycle. ... Most modern development processes can be vaguely described as agile.~~

~~Practices · Rapid application ... · Methodologies · Waterfall development~~

## Software Engineering — Software Process and Software Process ...

<https://medium.com/.../software-engineering-software-process-and-software-process-...> ▼

Mar 17, 2017 - A software process model is a simplified representation of a software process. Each model represents a process from a specific perspective. ... Some methodologies are sometimes known as software development life cycle (SDLC) methodologies, though this term could also be used more generally to refer to any methodology.

## [PDF] Software Engineering Processes

<https://web.cs.dal.ca/~hawkey/3130/SEBackground4.pdf> ▼

iteration of the process model. The Software Engineering Process - The Software Life Cycle. The illustration below highlights the various phases of what is ...

## Software Engineering: Process and Tools - RMIT University

[www1.rmit.edu.au/courses/014049](http://www1.rmit.edu.au/courses/014049) ▼

Software Engineering is more than the programming phase of an application arena. Phases of the software engineering life cycle include specialised processes ...

## ~~What is the software engineering process? - Quora~~

~~<https://www.quora.com/What-is-the-software-engineering-process>~~

~~Sep 23, 2017 - Firstly, Do understand that software engineering process is known by ... and they are - Software Process - Software Development Life Cycle ...~~

Interesting and related,  
but not scholarly articles

- Google is good if you know the title of the article you want, then search for it specifically
  - Eg: Software engineering process theory: A multi-method comparison of Sensemaking–Coevolution–Implementation Theory and Function–Behavior–Structure Theory
- When searching Google, you won't always be able to find a specific paper, but the search process may lead you to other related papers ...
  - For example, searching for the above paper... on the third page in google you come across the following link
  - [http://old.semat.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/GTSE\\_2012\\_Proceedings.pdf](http://old.semat.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/GTSE_2012_Proceedings.pdf)
  - These are proceedings from an academic workshop and the papers are refereed but only two pages in length ... too small for a reasonable scholarly article length .... But the references in each can lead to further articles etc.