Evaluating Sources

What the Crap?
The CRAP test is a way to evaluate a source based on the following criteria:Currency, Reliability, Authority, and Purpose/Point of View.

- PowerPoint: What is Crap?
- The Crap Test

Scholarly vs. Popular Periodical?
Click below to link to a 3-minute tutorial created by Vanderbilt University Library.

Credible Sources Count
Click below to begin the tutorial developed by Vaughan Memorial Library, Acadia University.

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Links:
Profile & Guides
Subjects:
American Studies, Art History, Classics

Paula Moskowitz

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Evaluating Sources
Examining a Scholarly Journal

Marijuana as a Therapeutic Agent in Chronic Pain Control
Sarah Nithiananthan, M.D. & Amy Gusbert, Ph.D.

Purpose
This paper reports on a clinical study in which the analgesic efficacy of cannabinoids (CBD), a component of natural marijuana, is compared to that of Maritoto (THC), the primary active ingredient in marijuana. The randomized double-blind study was performed at the University of British Columbia and included 20 patients with chronic pain. The results showed that patients treated with CBD had significantly less pain compared to those treated with THC.

Authors
The authors are authorities in the field in which they are writing. Academic affiliations & professional or corporate affiliations are usually provided so you can evaluate their qualifications. Research grants are also acknowledged and are important to note when evaluating an article's content because sponsorship may influence a researcher's perspective.

Purpose
The purpose of this study is to evaluate the effectiveness of marijuana as a therapeutic agent in chronic pain control.

Style
Scholarly journal articles are written for the specialized reader and contain formal and technical language as well as jargon.

Format
Like the language the layout of the article is also formal. An abstract head the article, and the text contains section headings, sub-headings, and a conclusion. Graphics such as charts, graphs, and tables are used to explain and clarify. There are limited or no advertisements, and those that are present relate to the specific area of study covered by the journal.

References
Reference is made to other relevant research. Authors always cite their sources.

Pagination
Articles are often consecutively numbered from one issue to the next.

Locating a scholarly journal in a database

Retrieved from www.umuc.edu/library/guides/identify/eblim.gif

Examining a scholarly journal retrieved from a database

Retrieved from library.albany.edu/usered/dr/images/scholarly.jpg
Examining a Magazine article

Purpose is to provide general information, to express public opinion, or to entertain. Topics are treated superficially and with little historical perspective.

**Purpose**

Examining a Magazine article

"Cannabis Clubs are burgeoning in Canada, even though law makers and law enforcement officials vow to prosecute anyone distributing or using illegal drugs..."

Author: The author(s) are professional journalists, staff writers, or freelance writers.

**Author**

by Brian Murphy

Cannabis Clubs – Dealing with Chronic Pain and Illness

The new millennium has arrived, and along with it comes an interesting social entity, the "Cannabis Club." These controversial organizations offer their desperate patrons something they can't get just anywhere: compassion, support, pain relief, and a pleasant high. Cannabis clubs are all the rage in every corner of Canada. Vancouver, Nelson, Toronto, Montreal...take your pick. If you're up to it, you can smoke it, drink it, eat it, or cook with it. Yes, pot has come a long way.

This phenomenon is not entirely new. In the Netherlands, hash bars and other places for sampling illicit drugs have been flourishing for years, mostly because of the drastically different attitude by government and the law towards these substances. In North America, a firm stance has always been taken by law enforcement agencies against users and purveyors of intoxicating substances, although if government coffers are able to generate more from the sale of said substances, they seem to be more open to...

**Style**

Since these articles are written for a wide general audience the language is jargon free and technical terms are defined. The writing is informal.

**Bill C-31 draws fire from right-wing extremists**

Recent developments in parliamentary discussions surrounding the controversial "legalize it" bill, Bill C-31, have drawn scathing public criticism, as well as organized nation-wide demonstrations from those in opposition. A key issue that raises the hackles of "Canadians Against Pot Use" is the proposed minimum age of 14 for medically prescribed use of marijuana.

"legalizing" them. A good example of this is consumable alcohol. Although the costs of drinking and alcoholism to society are immeasurable, it is perfectly legal for a person of "drinking" age to buy and consume alcoholic beverages. Cigarettes, although not intoxicating, also map a terrible toll on society, but are legal for sale and consumption.

**Format**

The cannabis club is not exactly a legal organization, nor are its interest activities condoned by law enforcement officials. The whole philosophy behind cannabis clubs is very different from their European counterparts. The mission of the cannabis club is to provide legitimately ill patients with treatment and relief from their condition through the therapeutic use of marijuana. A recent interview with Dr. Rolf Aduboo of Vancouver, B.C. captured the essence of the clubs. "If our conservative, closed-minded government officials can't take their blisters off long enough to evaluate the use of marijuana for medical purposes, we'll have to provide it to patients some other way."

**References**

Citations are not provided. The author may mention sources but rarely cite them.

**Pagination**

Each issue has separate pagination.

# Distinguishing between a Scholarly Journal and a Magazine

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>SCHOLARLY JOURNAL</th>
<th>MAGAZINE</th>
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<td><img src="image2" alt="TIME" /></td>
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**SCHOLARLY JOURNALS**
- Articles are written by authorities in field in which they are writing.
- The purpose is to report original research.
- Articles are written for the specialized reader in a particular field.
- The language is formal and technical.
- There are usually no pictures and limited advertisements.
- Authors always cite their sources.

**MAGAZINES**
- Articles are written by professional journalists, staff writers or freelance writers.
- The purpose is to provide general information.
- Articles are written for a general audience.
- The language is informal.
- Pictures and advertisements are included.
- Citations are not provided.

Retrieved from [www.laspositascollege.edu/Library/magazines_j...](www.laspositascollege.edu/Library/magazines_j...)

The CRAP Test

The CRAP test is a way to evaluate a source based on the following criteria: Currency, Reliability, Authority and Purpose/Point of View. Below are some questions to help you think about how to measure each of the criteria.

* **Currency** -
  - How recent is the information?
  - How recently has the website been updated?
  - Is it current enough for your topic?

* **Reliability** -
  - What kind of information is included in the resource?
  - Is content of the resource primarily opinion? Is it balanced?
  - Does the creator provide references or sources for data or quotations?

* **Authority** -
  - Who is the creator or author?
  - What are the credentials?
  - Who is the publisher or sponsor?
  - Are they reputable?
  - What is the publisher’s interest (if any) in this information?
  - Are there advertisements on the website?

* **Purpose/Point of View** -
  - Is this fact or opinion?
  - Is it biased?
  - Is the creator/author trying to sell you something?