Popular & Scholarly Literature

- When we talk about “popular” literature, we’re not necessarily talking about literature which is popular in a commercial sense -- we’re talking about literature which isn’t written for a scholarly, academic audience.

- Certain disciplines -- Communications, Journalism, Marketing, etc. -- use quite a bit of popular literature in their writing and research; in Sociology, however, the bulk of your resources will be scholarly.

- You will find most of your scholarly literature through Schewe’s databases and the books in our Library. You will find most of your popular literature through Google.

Catalog & Database Searching Tricks

- Search Fields -- searching different fields gives you different results (ALL TEXT, TITLE, SUBJECT, etc.)
- Limiting -- for when you need to narrow your results by a certain criteria (by date, type, etc.); fewer results
  Usually found on the sidebar of the catalog or whatever database you’re working in
- Quoted search -- for when you need a particular phrase searched together; fewer results
  Ex. (election politics) vs. (“election politics”)
- Wildcard Search -- for when you need all possible variants of a base word; more results
  Ex. (politics) vs. (polit* ----> politY, politIC, politICS, politICAL, etc.)