Books

- Books are excellent resources when seeking an introduction, overview, or recap of a particular topic; books are typically not as helpful when seeking information on a very specific or narrow topic.
- For example, you’ll find plenty of books addressing the topic of drug addiction; you would find fewer books addressing the topic of adolescent methamphetamine addiction in the rural South, however.
- You will find [academic] books through the Schewe Library / I-Share catalog. You can, of course, also find books using Google, Amazon.com, etc. but books found outside academic libraries are frequently inappropriate, or insufficiently scholarly, for academic papers, so be careful if you choose to go that route.

Hint

- Expecting a book to answer your exact research question is an unrealistic expectation -- as books are written to address broader and/or larger themes, you’ll typically find that books answer only parts of your research question. That’s OK, research isn’t one-stop-shopping, after all!
## EN 121: Books vs. Journals

### [Academic] Books

- At publication date, usually 3-4 years behind cutting-edge research
- Broader coverage; more fulsome discussion of a topic
- Written for scholars, but might also be read by the public-at-large
- Usually addresses one topic (though edited volumes can address more)
- Carry more weight in the humanities and social sciences

### Journals

- At publication date, are on the cutting-edge of research
- Narrow coverage; deals with a particular topic in great detail
- Written for scholars; few concessions made for non-experts and outsiders
- Academic journals can address many different (sub)topics in a single issue
- Carry more weight in the maths and hard sciences

## Things To Consider

Influential journal articles are often turned into books / Books are best for general topics