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 political science, however, the bulk of your resources will be scholarly.
- You will chiefly find scholarly literature through Schewe’s databases and the books in our Library. You will chiefly find popular literature through Google. Statistics, data, polls, etc. can be found in both places.

Database Searching Tricks

- *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.)*

- *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 whatever database you’re working in