Non-scholarly sources

In print, it’s pretty easy to tell the difference between non-scholarly sources, like magazines and newspapers...
...and scholarly sources, or academic journals.
It can sometimes be harder to tell if a source is scholarly when you're looking at your library search results...
documents is the movement away from such dependence on one face of an opposition and toward a healthier location within the play of oppositions.

More broadly, the novel’s post-modernism suggests Morrison’s political stance. In fact, as elsewhere, Morrison exposes the debilitating effects of white oppression, yet she avoids sentimental praise for African Americans. Instead, she locates her novel in the play between the two races. It is about the African American experience in white-dominated America and about how that experience is defined by African Americans’ historical and continuing relationship with whites. Her novel thus mirrors her argument in Playing in the Dark: Whiteness and the Literary Imagination that the concept of “an American Africanism” (38) was created in the imagination of whites as a way of defining themselves. “The process of organizing American coherence through a distancing Africanism became the operative mode of a new cultural hegemony” (8). If whites have defined themselves against the African American other, the characters in JUJU have no alternative but to define themselves against the white presence. In either case, Morrison foregrounds the play between the two entities, not the traditionally privileged entity and not a reactive substitution of the traditionally deprived one.

Without for the moment considering its Derridean implications, Joe Trace’s name bears thematic weight. Joe is adept at hunting, having learned the art of tracking prey from Harry Lafenfly/Lafoney. Good hunters follow the track of their prey by interpreting or reading its traces, the signs or evidence of its former presence. A track is also the focused or fixed direction imposed on one by external forces, such as the railroad tracks (which “control” the “feet” [32] of Joe, Violet, and the millions of other migrants), the railroad tracks, or more generally.

A faithful man near fifty “is bound to the track. It pulls him like a needle through the groove of a Blued Shadow. Round and round about the town. That’s the way the City spins you… You can’t get off the track a City lays for you” (120).

Joe and Violet, like all the novel’s characters, are bound to the track of Northern, urban, African American life. Lured from their rural Southern roots by the promise of economic opportunity and racial liberation, they are hooked by the City’s music and thrashing energy. But, like many Morrison characters (for example, Cholly Breeding, Son, Sethe, and Paul D’s identities are still linked to their roots in the rural South. The track of their lives is constituted by the traces of that past, largely their memories, which paradoxically give their present lives meaning and prevent the fulfillment of those present lives. Thus, Joe, haunted by his inability to verify his mother’s existence, reconstructs her in Duras and attempts to relive his remembered joy (his “Victory”) in Vesper County. For Violet, the traces of the past take the form of her fear of repeating her own mother’s suicide, her inability to have her own child, and yet her projections of a child onto Duras (108-09), Felix (197), and even Golden Gandy, who is “lived inside [her] mind” (208). Alice Manfred is also controlled by the traces of her past, for her bitter dead-in-life is associated with her husband’s infidelity and her desire for revenge. Similarly, Duras’s present is dominated by the traces of her memory of the riot-caused fire that killed her parents and burned her treasured doll.

But trace carries special significance, because it is one of the recurring concepts in Derrida’s writing. For Derrida the trace designates the play or oscillation between a present, a thing as-it-is, and an absence, an other. It is “the intimate relation of the living present to its outside, the opening to exteriority in general” (Speech 86). The trace is thus inseparable from Derrida’s con-
Descriptive title

The first sign is the title of the article.

Many scholarly articles have descriptive titles.
Here’s a sampling of a few scholarly article titles:

**Humanities**: "Traces of Derrida in Toni Morrison's *Jazz*

**Science**: "Accelerating Drug Development: Antiviral Therapies for Emerging Viruses as a Model"

**Social Sciences**: "Understanding the Role of Indigenous Community Participation in Indigenous Prenatal and Infant-Toddler Health Promotion Programs in Canada: A Realist Review"
The next clue is to look for an abstract.
Abstract

Purpose: Striking disparities in Indigenous maternal-child health outcomes persist in relatively affluent nations such as Canada, despite significant health promotion investments. The aims of this review were two-fold: 1. To identify Indigenous prenatal and infant-toddler health promotion programs in Canada that demonstrate positive impacts on prenatal or child health outcomes. 2. To understand how, why, for which outcomes, and in what contexts Indigenous prenatal and infant-toddler health promotion programs in Canada positively impact Indigenous health and wellbeing.

Methods: We systematically searched computerized databases and identified non-indexed reports using key informants. Included literature evaluated a prenatal or child health promoting program intervention in an Indigenous population in Canada. We used realist methods to investigate how, for whom, and in what circumstances programs worked. We developed and appraised the evidence for a middle range theory of Indigenous community investment-ownership-activation as an explanation for program success.

Findings: Seventeen articles and six reports describing twenty programs met final inclusion criteria. Program evidence of local Indigenous community investment, community perception of the program as intrinsic (mechanism of community ownership) and high levels of sustained community participation and leadership (community activation) was linked to positive program change across a diverse range of outcomes including: birth outcomes; access to pre- and postnatal care; prenatal street drug use; breastfeeding; dental health; infant nutrition; child development; and child exposure to Indigenous languages and culture.

Conclusions: These findings demonstrate Indigenous community investment-ownership-activation as an important pathway for success in Indigenous prenatal and infant-toddler health programs.

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Many scholarly articles include a brief abstract that tells you what the article is about.
Academic, expert language

Abstract

Purpose

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Seventeen articles and six reports describing twenty programs met final inclusion criteria.

Program evidence of local indigenous community investment, community perception of the program as intrinsic (mechanism of community ownership) and high levels of sustained community participation and leadership (community activation) was linked to positive program change across a diverse range of outcomes including: birth outcomes; access to pre- and postnatal care; prenatal street drug use; breast-feeding; dental health; infant nutrition; child development; and child exposure to indigenous languages and culture.

Conclusions

These findings demonstrate indigenous community investment-ownership-activation as an important pathway for success in indigenous prenatal and infant-toddler health programs.

Next, look for academic, expert-level language.

Scholarly sources are written for other experts in the field, so they will use more specialized language and higher-level vocabulary.
The authors of scholarly sources are typically affiliated with colleges, universities, or other research institutions.
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Many articles will include brief author information. If none is included in the article, try searching for the author online.
Many scholarly articles, especially in the sciences or social sciences, will also include charts, graphs, or tables.
At the end of the article, look for a reference list or bibliography.
Published in a scholarly journal

Finally, look at the length of the article and where it’s published.
Look for in-depth articles that are at least several pages long, and are published in an academic journal.
If you're not sure if the source is an academic or scholarly journal, you can check using the Ulrichs Web database.
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