HOW TO IDENTIFY SCHOLARLY BOOKS

1. **Check the publisher.** Scholarly works are often published by university presses, such as Oxford University Press, University of California Press, or MIT Press. Additionally, a number of non-university presses publish scholarly titles, such as Palgrave Macmillan, Routledge, Sage, Wiley-Blackwell, Verso, Zone, or Taylor & Francis.

2. **Who is the author?** Read the short author bio or acknowledgments page. Make sure the author is an active member in their field of scholarship. Authors of scholarly titles are often professors, researchers, or other pertinent experts in their field.

3. **Look at the author’s research.** Scholarly books should include extensive documentation of their research methods and references, including endnotes and indexes.

4. **Is there a bibliography?** Citations are a critical aspect of determining whether a book is a scholarly title. Clearly documented research allows readers to evaluate the sources used by the author, as well as provide books, articles, and other materials for further reading.

5. **What is the tone of the book?** Scholarly titles present new ideas on a topic through critical analysis and inquiry. Be thoughtful when using books that are biased to a certain opinion or position.

6. **Is the book relevant?** Make sure the book is relevant to the current scholarship in your field of study. Outdated or irrelevant research will greatly jeopardize the quality of your work.