When setting up a link resolver what is meant by Source and Target?

The terms Source and Target are often used when discussing link resolvers like Full Text Finder. A Source is the place where users begin their research. Examples include Abstract & Index databases, Google Scholar, full-text article databases such as Academic Search Complete, discovery services such as EBSCO Discovery Service, or one of many other searching interfaces. While searching in the Source users find an item they want to read; if the full text (i.e., the actual article, e-book chapter, etc.) is not available within the source they are currently using an OpenURL link resolver provides the outbound link that can connect them to the full text available elsewhere in their institution’s collection of subscribed resources.

The Full Text Finder administrator sets up the Source to offer a link resolver for the item of interest. Once users click the link option they are shown a list of options on a menu, or if configured by the administrator, are taken directly to the full text. The links displayed on the menu are called Targets. The Target is the destination web site or service that offers the item of interest.

Full Text Finder is able to connect from any Source that allows for outbound OpenURL linking.

There are dozens of popular Sources, including, but not limited to:

- Google Scholar
- Article databases (ProQuest, Gale, EBSCO)
- Subject Indexes (MATHSCINET, Chemical Abstracts)
- Publisher Sites (JSTOR, Wiley Online Library, APA)
- OPACs and online catalogs (III, WorldCat, ExLibris, SirsiDynix)