



Library and Learning/Information Resources

Primary vs Secondary Sources

| | PRIMARY | SECONDARY |
|-------------------|---|---|
| DEFINITION | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Original documents Creative works Relics or artifacts ...or any other source that was <u>written</u> or <u>created</u> at the <u>time of study</u>. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Textbooks Monographs Magazine & journal articles criticism commentaries encyclopedias ...or any other source that <u>analyzes</u> and/or <u>interprets</u> a primary source document. |
| EXAMPLES | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diary of Anne Frank - Experiences of a Jewish family during WWII The Constitution of Canada - Canadian History A journal article reporting NEW research or findings Weavings and pottery - Native American history Plato's Republic - Women in Ancient Greece | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A journal/magazine article which interprets or reviews previous findings A history textbook A book about the effects of WWI |

Information on this page is based on information on Princeton University's website, located at: <http://www.princeton.edu/~refdesk/primary2.html>

Scholarly vs Popular Articles

| | SCHOLARLY | POPULAR |
|------------------|--|--|
| | Scholarly Journals, Academic Journals, Peer-Reviewed Use the following criteria to determine whether an article is scholarly. | Newspapers, Magazines, Trade Magazines Use the following criteria to determine whether an article is popular. |
| AUDIENCE | Scholars, researchers, professors, students. | General readers. |
| AUTHOR | Professionals, experts in the field. Credentials are listed in the article. | Varies, but typically journalists, staff writers, 'guest' experts. May not be signed. |
| CONTENT | Original research | Non-technical, entertainment, news. May report on original research (such as breaking medical research) |
| LENGTH | Usually lengthy, often over 10 pages long. | Usually short, 1-5 pages. |
| CITATIONS | Many detailed citations. | No, incomplete, or very few citations. |
| REFEREED | Articles go through a peer-review process where they are critiqued by other experts in the field before they are published. | No |



Plagiarism

What is Plagiarism?

1. Giving the wrong information about the source of a quotation or paraphrased passage.
2. Copying another person's words or ideas without giving credit.
3. Failing to put quotations in quotation marks.
4. Turning in someone else's work as your own.
5. Changing words but copying the sentence structure without giving credit.

Adapted from: Purdue Online Writing Lab and USC Upstate Plagiarism Prevention Guide

What is not Plagiarism? You do not need to cite when:

1. Using widely accepted facts
2. Using common knowledge (sometimes 'common knowledge' can depend on your audience)
3. Using results obtained through your own fieldwork or experiments
4. Using your own lived experiences
5. Using your own artwork, photographs, video, etc.

Adapted from: Purdue Online Writing Lab and USC Upstate Plagiarism Prevention Guide