

Primary Sources

Primary Factors: first-hand account, contemporary to the time period, have not been interpreted or evaluated, present original thinking or new information.

Examples

- Literary creation
- Artifacts
- Audio recordings
- Diaries;
- Internet communications on email, listservs;
- Interviews
- Journal articles published in peer-reviewed publications;
- Letters;
- Newspaper articles written at the time;
- Original Documents;
- Patents;
- Photographs;
- Proceedings of Meetings, conferences, and symposia;
- Records of organizations, government agencies;
- Speeches;
- Survey Research;
- Video recordings;
- Works of art, architecture, literature, and music;
- Web site

Sources:

Georgia State University Libraries: <http://research.library.gsu.edu/c.php?g=115558&p=868127>

Yale University Libraries: <http://guides.library.yale.edu/c.php?g=295913&p=1975839>

Secondary Sources

Secondary Factors: commentary,
discussion, evaluation, commentary,
benefit of hindsight

Examples

Bibliographies (also considered tertiary);*
Biographical works;
Commentaries, criticisms;
Dictionaries, Encyclopedias (also considered tertiary);*
Histories;
Literary criticism such as Journal articles;
Magazine and newspaper articles;
Monographs, other than fiction and autobiography;
Textbooks (also considered tertiary);*
Web site (also considered primary).*

*It all depends on context.

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Yale University Libraries: <http://guides.library.yale.edu/c.php?g=295913&p=1975839dd>

Tertiary Sources

Tertiary Factors: distillation, collection of primary and secondary, reference works, overview of principles and practices in a discipline

Examples

Almanacs;

Bibliographies (also considered secondary);*

Chronologies;

Dictionaries and Encyclopedias (also considered secondary);*

Directories;

Fact books;

Guidebooks;

Indexes, abstracts, bibliographies used to locate primary and secondary sources;

Manuals;

Textbooks (also be secondary).*

*It all depends on context.

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