

HISTORICAL SOURCES

PRIMARY

These are original materials, created in the period. They are generally just the information or artifact, and do not include evaluation or commentary.

EXAMPLES

- Newspapers
- Artifacts
- Charters
- Letters
- Codes of Law
- Speeches
- Scientific Findings
- Media (Photographs, Audio Recording, etc.)
- Government-Issued Documents
- Art & Architecture
- Fiction
- Musical Scores
- Census Records
- Personal Journals
- Polls
- Maps

- Biographies
- Commentaries
- Critical Works
- Documentaries
- Histories
- Reviews
- Editorial Newspaper Articles
- Peer-Reviewed Journals

EXAMPLES

SECONDARY

These sources offer interpretation or commentary on primary sources. They include second hand accounts or analysis.

The definition of a secondary source may depend on discipline or topic of research

TERTIARY

Tertiary sources condense information--like Campbell's soup! They take a primary or secondary source and reduce it to only absolutely necessary information.

EXAMPLES

- Almanacs
- Bibliographies
- Chronologies
- Dictionaries
- Directories
- Encyclopedias
- Factbooks
- Guidebooks
- Indexes
- Manuals
- Textbooks

PRIMARY SOURCES

What questions should you ask when evaluating primary sources?

Who created this source, and when was it created? Why was it created?

In what contexts was this source created?

Is it credible? What makes it so?

What are the limitations of using this source in your research?

What are some primary sources?

- *The Diary of Anne Frank*
- Photographs from the Sherman Campaign
- A report of the results of a clinical trial
- A patent for a flying car
- *Citizen Kane*
- A map of Yosemite National Park
- Artifacts from *Bodies...The Exhibition*
- *Beowulf*



SECONDARY SOURCES

What questions should you ask when evaluating secondary sources?

Is this source scholarly or popular? What makes it so?

Who is the audience for this source, and how does the audience shape it?

What the purpose of this source? What is its perspective?

How does it help you support your research?



What are some secondary sources?

- A journal article on Holocaust diaries
- A history book on Sherman's March to the Sea
- A book comparing two clinical trials
- A documentary on auto inventors
- A biography of Orson Welles
- Ken Burn's documentary *The West*
- A review in the *AJC* of *Bodies... the Exhibition*
- *A History of the Vikings*