

	Primary	Secondary	Tertiary
Definition	Original documents created or experienced concurrently with the event being researched	Works that analyze, assess, or interpret a historical event, an era, or a phenomenon. Generally uses primary sources	Sources that identify, locate, and synthesize primary AND secondary sources
Characteristics	First hand observations, contemporary accounts of the event. Viewpoint of the time	Interpretation of information, usually written well after an event. Offers reviews or critiques	Reference works, collections of lists of primary and secondary sources, finding tools for sources
Examples	Interviews, news footage, data sets, original research, speeches, diaries, letters, creative works, photographs	Research studies, literary criticism, book reviews, biographies, textbooks	Encyclopedias, bibliographies, dictionaries, manuals, textbooks, fact books