

## Primary and Secondary Sources

### Primary Sources

Primary sources are original materials or records of events as they were first described. They were either created during that particular time period or later by a participant in the studied event. They form the basis for subsequent interpretations or studies.

Primary research would be research that investigates a new problem or issue, or investigates a longstanding issue with a new approach. Also called Field Research, it focuses on collecting data that has not before been gathered.

### Secondary sources

Secondary sources often attempt to interpret, explain, or analyze primary sources. Literature reviews and textbooks are examples of secondary sources. Some secondary sources also attempt to persuade the reader to a particular point of view.

Encyclopedias, textbooks, reviews are all examples of secondary sources.

Secondary research, also called desk research, involves the description, summary, collation, synthesis, explanation, or review of primary research.

### *Examples of primary and secondary sources:*

	<b>Primary Sources</b>	<b>Secondary Sources</b>
Art	Original artwork	Critical review
Theatre	Video of play	Review of play
History	Diaries & Memories	Analysis of Nixon years
Literature	Poem Novel	Critique of poem History of the novel
Political Science	Treaty	Article on Native American rights
Anthropology	Article on Native American rights	Comparison of two ethnographic studies
Market Research	Original data about product & market	Census bureau information & Nielsen ratings