What are Primary Sources?

Primary sources are original materials. They have not been filtered through interpretation.

- Diaries
- Interviews (legal proceedings, personal, telephone, e-mail)
- Letters
- Original Documents (i.e. birth certificate or a trial transcript)
- Patents
- Photographs
- Proceedings of Meetings, Conferences and Symposia.
- Survey Research (such as market surveys and public opinion polls)
- Works of Literature

What are Secondary Sources?

Secondary sources are accounts written after the fact with the benefit of hindsight. They are interpretations and evaluations of primary sources.

- Biographies
- Commentaries
- Dissertations
- Indexes, Abstracts, Bibliographies (used to locate primary & secondary sources)
- Journal Articles
- Monographs

What are Tertiary Sources?

Tertiary sources consist of information which is a distillation and collection of primary and secondary sources.

- Almanacs
- Encyclopedias
- Fact books
- Textbooks
- Dictionaries