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| Disciplines | Primary Sources | Secondary Sources |
| Music  Keeran, P. (2007). *Research within the disciplines: Foundations for reference and library instruction*. Lanham, Md: Scarecrow Press. (p.45) | primary source materials include composer sketches, manuscripts, the autograph manuscript, and fair copy corrected and signed by the composer. Facsimile reproductions of any of the preceding may in many cases also qualify. | Subsequently, secondary sources would include scholarly editions, urtext editions (printed musical editions without editorial additions to the score), and any other editions of the work, including corrupt editions (printed editions may enjoy a certain period of being considered good until proven to be aberrant from the composer’s intentions) and audio or video recordings of the work. |
| History  Keeran, P. (2007). *Research within the disciplines: Foundations for reference and library instruction*. Lanham, Md: Scarecrow Press. (pp.62-67) | Primary sources are the original documents, in whatever format, that historians use to understand the people and events of the past. Written at or near the time of the event, primary sources give the closest glimpse possible of the thoughts and intentions of the historical actors involved. … Primary sources can include diaries, journals, correspondence, interviews, or memoirs, whether written or conducted at the time or many years later by someone who participated in the event of interest.  Primary literature allows the historian to get as close as possible to the original event.  Newspaper articles or other secondary publications, written about the event in question, can be treated as primary sources as well if they can provide insight into the thoughts of contemporaries. Anything that can be used to further understanding of the event can be treated as a primary source.  Context will determine whether a source should be treated as primary or secondary.  Therefore, when helping someone with historical research, it is vital to understand the context of the research project in order to best determine how to search for primary and secondary source material. | Secondary sources are books, articles, interviews, speeches, videos and the like that interpret events of the past. Sources of this sort are written or compiled with the intent of furthering our understanding of the original documents of the time. Secondary literature can be from any period, whether written by someone at the time of the event or thousands of years later.  Secondary literature can help a researcher understand the context of a historical problem. |
| Architecture  Groat, L., & Wang, D. (2002). *Architectural research methods*. New York, NY: Wiley. (p.60) | Primary sources are *original* sources that, relative to the topic, are not essentially commentary *about* the topic. Primary sources usually *are* the topic that other sources comment *upon*. | Those other sources, then, are the secondary sources. |
| General  Gibaldi, J. (2009). *MLA handbook for writers of research papers: 7th edition*. New York: Modern Language Association. (p.3). | Primary research is the study of a subject through firsthand investigation, such as analyzing a literary or historical text, a film, or a performance; conducting a survey or an interview; or carrying out a laboratory experiment. Primary sources include statistical data, historical documents, and works of literature or art. | Secondary research is the examination of studies that other researchers have made of a subject. Examples of secondary sources are articles and books about political issues, historical events, scientific debates, or literary works. |
| General  Turabian, K. L., & Booth, W. C. (2007). *A Manual for writers of research papers, theses, and dissertations: Chicago style for students and researchers*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. (pp. 25-27) | In the fields such as literary studies, the arts, and history, primary sources are original works –diaries, letters, manuscripts, images, films, film scripts, recordings, and musical scores created by writers, artists, composers, and so on. Those provide data… Data can also be objects: coins, clothing, tools, and other artifacts from the period or belonging to a person you’re studying. … The primary sources for those collected data are the publications that first publish them, ranging from government and commercial databases to scholarly journals. | Secondary sources are books and articles that analyze primary sources, usually written by and for other researchers. … Secondary sources also include specialized encyclopedias and dictionaries that offer essays written by scholars in a field. |