What is a primary information source?
A primary source is a document or other sort of evidence written or created during the time under study. Primary sources offer an inside view of a particular event.

Types of primary sources
- ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS
  Diaries, speeches, letters, minutes, interviews, news film footage, autobiographies, official records, scholarly journal articles reporting NEW research or findings.
- CREATIVE WORKS
  Poetry, drama, novels, music, art.
- RELICS OR ARTIFACTS
  Jewelry, pottery, furniture, clothing, buildings

Examples of primary sources
- Diary of Anne Frank -- experiences of the Jews in WWII
- Declaration of Independence -- U.S. history
- Bible -- Hebrew customs in biblical times
- Arrowheads and pottery -- American Indian history
- Plato's Republic -- women in ancient Greece

What is a secondary information source?
A secondary source interprets and analyzes primary sources. Secondary sources are one step removed from the event.

Types of secondary sources
- DOCUMENTS
  Textbooks, magazine articles, histories, criticism, commentaries, encyclopedias, systematic reviews, meta-analyses

Examples of secondary sources
- A journal/magazine article which interprets or reviews previous findings
- A textbook
- A newspaper reporting the findings in a medical journal

(over)
A systematic review which interprets and reviews the findings of many studies.

**What is a tertiary information source?**
A tertiary source indexes, organizes and compiles citations to secondary (and sometimes primary) sources. A tertiary source is also information from secondary sources that has been "digested", or reformatted and condensed, to put it into a convenient, easy-to-read form.

**Types of tertiary sources**
- INDEXES
  - Cochrane, MEDLINE, PeDRO

- REFERENCE WORKS
  - Almanacs, Bibliographies (may also be secondary), Guidebooks, Manuals, Handbooks, Data Compilations (may also be secondary).

**Examples of tertiary sources**
- An encyclopedia of World War I