

Primary Resources

Defination	Primary resources contain first-hand information, meaning that you are reading the author's own account on a specific topic or event that s/he participated in. Review articles or editorials are not primary literature.
Examples	journal articles of original research, conference papers, dissertations, technical reports, patents. several types of publications considered primary, including controlled trials, cohort studies, case series, and case reports.
Adv	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to detailed information about a topic • The ability to personally assess the utility and validity of study results. • Tends to be more recent than tertiary or secondary literature.
Dis Adv	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Misleading conclusions based on only one trial without the context of other researches, • The need to have good skills in medical literature evaluation, • The time needed to evaluate the large volume of literature available.

Secondary resources

Defination	Secondary resources include indexing and abstracting systems that organize and provide easy retrieval of primary resources.
Examples	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MEDLINE (through PubMed, EBSCO, Ovid), • Academic Search Premier, • Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews, • Iowa Drug Information Service (IDIS), • International Pharmaceutical Abstracts (IPA), • Embase/Excerpta Medica, • Biosis Previews/Biological Abstracts, • CancerLit, SedBase, Reactions, • Clin-Alert, Current Contents, and Toxline. Proper training

Tertiary Resources

Defination	Tertiary sources consist of primary and secondary source information which has been collected and distilled. They present summaries of or an introduction to the current state of research on a topic, summarize or condense information from primary and secondary sources
Examples	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • electronic databases (e.g., Micromedex, Lexicomp) • review articles. • Facts and Comparisons
Dis Adv	<p>1- The lag time associated with publication, resulting in less current information</p> <p>2- The information in a tertiary text may be incomplete due either to :</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">a- Space limitations of the book or</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">b- Incomplete literature searches by the author</p> <p>3- errors in transcription, human bias, incorrect interpretation of information, or a lack of expertise by authors.</p>

CONSUMER HEALTH INFORMATION

National Library of Medicine: http://www.medlineplus.gov	FDA: http://www.fda.gov/cder
Thomson Health Care: http://www.gettingwell.com	Merck: http://www.merckhomeedition.com
National Women's Health Information Center: http://www.4women.gov	