Identifying and finding sources

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Agenda

• Types of sources
• Grey literature
• Evaluating sources
• Policy report vs. Academic Article
• Data and where to find it
  • Statistics Canada
  • Other resources
• Citing data
• Research help/ Contact us!
# Sources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PRIMARY</th>
<th>SECONDARY</th>
<th>TERTIARY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Definition</strong></td>
<td>Original, firsthand information collected at the time of event.</td>
<td>Adaptations, interpretations, or critiques of primary sources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Examples</strong></td>
<td>Diaries, interviews, newspaper articles at time of event, journal articles</td>
<td>Reviews, biographies, critiques, journal articles, books</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Grey Literature

...Information produced on all levels of government, academia, business and industry in electronic and print formats not controlled by commercial publishing...

Academic article or policy report?

- What is the structure/how is the information presented?
- Who is the author and what are their credentials?
- Who is the intended audience for this article?
- Where is it published?

[bit.ly/2y566a4](bit.ly/2y566a4)
[bit.ly/2Ns7J6w](bit.ly/2Ns7J6w)
[bit.ly/2E1FTyF](bit.ly/2E1FTyF)
[bit.ly/2C3G6i6](bit.ly/2C3G6i6)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Scholarly and peer-reviewed article</th>
<th>Policy report</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Type</strong></td>
<td>Formally published (“black &amp; white”)</td>
<td>Grey literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Purpose</strong></td>
<td>Inform or report on original research and contribute to the scholarly conversation</td>
<td>Issue-driven</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Access</strong></td>
<td>Database (sometimes locked), takes time</td>
<td>Website (Free or paid), fast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Author</strong></td>
<td>Academic credentials, institutional/ research affiliation</td>
<td>Affiliation varies (think tanks, government agencies, non-profits, professional associations, research institutes, and other organizations)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Audience</strong></td>
<td>Researchers or scholars</td>
<td>Stakeholders or public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Language</strong></td>
<td>Technical or scholarly language</td>
<td>Clear and simple, may use technical language</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Structure</strong></td>
<td>Title, abstract, keywords, intro, literature review, methods, results, conclusion/discussion, references, appendices</td>
<td>Title, table of contents, executive summary, introduction, issue, options, recommendations, conclusion, references, appendices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Citations</strong></td>
<td>Extensive and mostly scholarly</td>
<td>May use a range of sources, but fewer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Evaluation of sources

• Who: Authority
• What: Content
• Where: Scope
• When: Currency
• Why: Objectivity

“The reasons for this dire situation include: decimation of habitat by logging and suburban encroachment ... and booming populations of its natural predators, including the bald eagle and sasquatch.”

Finding policy reports

• The Library!
  • Library Catalogue
  • Canadian Electronic Library from desLibris
  • Canadian Research Index
  • Article databases (secondary sources)

• Government agencies, organizations, and institutes (look for *Publications* section)
  • Fraser Institute
  • Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives
Demo Canadian Electronic Library

- [https://www.lib.sfu.ca](https://www.lib.sfu.ca)
  - Article databases
    - Canadian Electronic Library from desLibris
Data:

[a] reinterpretable representation of information in a formalized manner suitable for communication, interpretation, or processing.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Primary Data</th>
<th>Secondary Data</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Collected firsthand by researcher for a specific research purpose</td>
<td>Used for a different purpose other than originally intended and/or by someone who did not collect the original data</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Collected through surveys, observations, or experiments
- Expensive
- Time consuming
- Biases may not be as obvious

- Not tailored to research project
- Lacks context
- Low(er) cost
- Quick access
- Access depends on permission – Data can be public or private
- Bias

Where to find data?

Consider: Who, what, when, where, why

• Registries of research data repositories (eg. Re3data.org)
• Research repositories (eg. Abacus)
• Government and other websites (eg. Open Data Inventory)
• Sources referred to in publications (eg. The Daily)
The Daily

- [https://www.statcan.gc.ca/eng/start](https://www.statcan.gc.ca/eng/start)
- The Daily
  - Releases by subject

LABOUR FORCE SURVEY

- https://www.statcan.gc.ca-eng/start
- Surveys and Statistical programs
  - Results and documentation of surveys and statistical programs
    - Labour Force Survey

CENSUS

• https://www.statcan.gc.ca/eng/start

• Census Program
  • Census Datasets

CENSUS PROGRAM DATA VIEWER

- [https://www.statcan.gc.ca/eng/start](https://www.statcan.gc.ca/eng/start)
  - Census Program
    - Scroll down to data products
      - Census Program Data Viewer

Citing Data in APA Style

- Statistics Canada Reference Builder
  www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/12-591-x/2009001/steps-etapes-eng.htm

- SFU Citing Guide for Statistics Canada
  www.lib.sfu.ca/find/other-materials/data-gis/data/citing-statistics

Example:


Source: https://www.lib.sfu.ca/find/other-materials/data-gis/data/citing-statistics
Research Help! [https://www.lib.sfu.ca/help/ask-us](https://www.lib.sfu.ca/help/ask-us)

- Research Help desk in any of the three campus libraries
- *Ask a Librarian* services (via the Library home page)
  - Email or Telephone
- AskAway chat
- Liaison Librarian:
  - Shannon Cheng: shannon_cheng@sfu.ca
  - Moninder Lalli: moninder_lalli@sfu.ca

- Student Learning Commons [https://www.lib.sfu.ca/about/branches-depts/slc](https://www.lib.sfu.ca/about/branches-depts/slc)
  - Writing consultations