



*Primary sources* are documents or artifacts that offer firsthand testimony or direct evidence concerning a topic. Primary sources can be public or private, and they can be written, oral, visual or electronic. *Secondary sources* offer indirect discussion, interpretation, or judgment of a topic. Often secondary sources are created after the time contemporary with the topic.

Below are some possible types of primary sources:

<b>Written Transmissions</b>	
Books	Newspapers
Journals	Diaries
Letters	Chronicles
Annals	Government Documents
Dissertations	Personal or Institutional Papers
Public records	Genealogies
Census Data	Manuscripts
Eyewitness Accounts	Laws
Scripture	Scrolls
Inscriptions	Period Literature and Poetry
<b>Oral Transmissions</b>	
Speeches	Ballads
Anecdotes	Legends
Sagas	Telephone Conversations
Oral Histories	Recordings (records, CDs, tapes)
Music	Myths
Interviews	
<b>Visual Transmissions</b>	
Sculpture	Historical Paintings
Photographs	Engravings
Portraits	Models and dioramas
Maps	Woodcuts
Cartoons	Architecture
Coins	Etchings
Videotapes	Relics
Films	Artifacts
Posters	Computer-Generated Graphic
<b>Electronic Transmissions</b>	
Faxes	Machine-readable databases
Electronic Mail	Spreadsheets
Web sites	