Primary and Secondary Resources

Saxion Library

For your research you need information. Information can be divided into two types of resources: primary and secondary resources. When to use which resource depends on your research question.

Primary

A primary resource is the representation of an event or research described for the first time. It contains new information.

Secondary

Secondary resources use primary resources to provide an interpretation of the information from the primary source.

Examples

- photo's
- e-mails
- journal articles
- interviews
- reports
- congress reports

- encyclopedias
- handbooks
- biographies
- documentaries
- textbooks
- review papers

References

When using primary and/or secondary resources, you cite the resource in your research. Always use APA in the appropriate format.