

Primary sources

The term primary source refers to an item you might wish to study. This could be one of several things:

- an original creative work such as a novel, or a poetry anthology, or a movie, or a work of art, or a music score or recording
- a piece of legislation, such as an Act of Parliament, or a treaty
- case law, referring to an actual lawsuit
- an original historical document, such as the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle or the Magna Carta
- statistical data
- audio or video recordings of events or speeches

Secondary sources

This term refers to any item – published or otherwise – that is about a primary source. This could be:

- a book or journal article about the work of a writer, poet, movie director, artist, music composer, etc
- a review of either a movie, a novel, a painting, a computer game or a piece of music
- a webpage devoted to the study or celebration of a specific person
- an unpublished dissertation or thesis
- an article about a piece of legislation or case law