

Lesson 2: Sources of Information Used in the Literature Review

Task 1: Use your dictionary to define the following word:

Authoritative (adj):

The criteria used to identify an authoritative source of information are as follows:

1. **Author's Expertise and Affiliation :** An authoritative source is typically authored by someone with significant expertise in the field, such as a scholar affiliated with a reputable university. The author's work is subject to peer review, indicating that it has been critically evaluated by other experts in the field. The author's body of work should also demonstrate depth, breadth, and development of understanding in the topic area.
2. **Provenance:** The author's place of work and any potential publication rules or oversight processes, such as submission to a publications committee, are important indicators of reliability. If the author works for a reputable public body or institution, this adds credibility to the source. One must also consider whether the author or their organization has any vested interest that might bias the content.
3. **Recency:** The timeliness of the source is crucial, particularly for fields like science and technology. Authors should use recent sources, as older sources may be outdated. Research from monthly or quarterly journals is especially important for staying current with developments in the field.
4. **Citations and References:** The quality and extent of citations in the work indicate the amount of research conducted and the scholarly rigor of the author. Sources that cite a range of independent research or reputable studies (rather than just the author's own or a limited group of references) are more likely to be authoritative. The recency and diversity of these citations are also important.

These criteria combined help ensure the reliability and scholarly integrity of the information being used in academic projects.

Task 1: Match the definition with the appropriate term.

Definition	Term
1-Books, periodicals, maps, charts, forms, pictures, videotapes, or any source of information disseminated by a government agency or government-funded agency.	a-Popular sources (Newspapers and Magazines)
2- A book containing a comprehensive compilation of content in a branch of study with the intention of explaining it. They are produced to meet the needs of educators, usually at educational institutions.	b- Professional books
3-A collection of academic papers published in the context of an academic conference or workshop.	c-Trade books
4- Scholarly publication containing articles written by researchers, professors and other experts. They focus on a specific discipline or field of study. They are intended for an academic or technical audience, not general readers.	d-Conference proceedings.
5- Books with professional content for the aim of starting or perfecting an occupation.	e-Journals
6- Books that are marketed for the general audience.	f-Government Documents.
7- Books written by experts-- researchers, professionals, professors, and other scholars in specific fields intended for academic discussion and research presentation and review.	g-Theses & Dissertations.
8- A long piece of academic writing based on original research, submitted as part of an undergraduate or postgraduate degree.	h- Scholarly Books / Book Chapters.
9- A book or set of books giving information on many subjects or on many aspects of one subject and typically arranged alphabetically.	i-Encyclopaedias
10- General interest periodicals intended for the general audience.	j-Handbooks
11- Books that contain instructions or advice about how to do something or the most important and useful information about a subject.	k-Text books
	l- webpage

12- A document from a website which can be displayed in a web browser.	
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Task 4: which of the sources mentioned in the previous task are the most appropriate to do literature review? Why?

Keep in mind

- ✓ The extent of the reliability of certain sources does not mean that you do not need to double check the information mentioned in them.
- ✓ Always make sure that what is mentioned in a source are facts supported by evidence and logical arguments.
- ✓ Keep an open mind, challenge the acceptable, consider all the aspects of a topic in a balanced and objective way and support your position with up-to-date information.