

Types of Information

Types	Description	Sample Sources
Scholarly	<p>Author: has some level of authority in the field; typically has an academic post, is a professor, or is a researcher</p> <p>Audience: other experts in a field</p> <p>Purpose: advances a field a study by reporting new findings or ideas; Increases author's authority and credentials in field</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Journal of Sociology</i> ➤ <i>Journal of American History</i> ➤ <i>Journal of Modern Literature</i> ➤ Research findings on a Website ➤ <i>Sugar Creek: Life on the Illinois Prairie</i> by John Mack Faragher
Professional/Trade	<p>Author: member of a profession or trade but not necessarily a researcher</p> <p>Audience: members of a particular field or trade</p> <p>Purpose: informs, promotes, and generally strengthens the profession</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>American Libraries</i> ➤ <i>Nursing Times</i> ➤ <i>Insurance & Technology</i> ➤ <i>Adweek</i>
Reference Encyclopedias & Information Reports	<p>Author: staff writers, freelance writers or academic scholars</p> <p>Audience: general public, students</p> <p>Purpose: provides overviews and background information on subjects</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Encyclopedia of Education</i> ➤ <i>CQ Researcher</i> ➤ <i>Information Plus Reference Series</i>
Government	<p>Author: varies (could be government employee, elected official, or expert in a particular field)</p> <p>Audience: vanes (could be public, elected official, or government agency)</p> <p>Purpose: generally created to run the government, inform decision makers or inform the public</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Congressional Record</i> ➤ <i>Supreme Court Reporter</i> ➤ State Codes ➤ Court Judgments & Rulings ➤ Studies conducted by government agencies ➤ Committee Reports

Entertainment/Popular	<p>Author: non-expert in a field usually with a degree in journalism or training as a writer</p> <p>Audience: general public</p> <p>Purpose: presents information in an interesting manner that does not necessarily focus on depth of coverage</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Details</i> ➤ <i>Rolling Stone</i> ➤ <i>Premiere</i> ➤ <i>Sports Illustrated</i>
News	<p>Author: non-expert in a field usually with a degree in journalism or training as a writer; some journalists develop specialties over time, but they aren't typically considered "experts"</p> <p>Audience: general public</p> <p>Purpose: reports current events in a timely fashion possibly influenced by editorial policy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Newsweek</i> ➤ <i>New York Times</i> ➤ www.msnbc.com ➤ <i>TIME</i> ➤ <i>Washington Post</i>
Facts, Definitions and Statistics	<p>Author: staff writers</p> <p>Audience: general public or researchers</p> <p>Purpose: presents facts, definitions and statistics with little explanation or evaluation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>World Almanac</i> ➤ <i>Statistical Abstracts of the United States</i> ➤ <i>Illinois Vital Statistics</i> ➤ <i>Stedman's Medical Dictionary</i>
Special Interest / Opinion	<p>Author: typically a non-expert in a field, but could be an expert expressing his or her opinion</p> <p>Audience: general public / people subscribing to a particular point of view</p> <p>Purpose: advances a particular point of view or expresses an individual's point of view (the attribution of authority may heavily depend on the beliefs of the reader)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Culture Warrior</i> by Bill O'Reilly ➤ National Rifle Association: www.nra.org ➤ The Huffington Post: www.huffingtonpost.com
Unsubstantiated or Uncredited Information	<p>Author: unable to substantiate the identity of the author or author lacks credentials or authority</p> <p>Audience: general public or unable to determine</p> <p>Purpose: often for hobbies, personal interest, or may have entertainment value</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ personal Web sites ➤ office rumor ➤ <i>National Inquirer</i>