

Primary and Secondary Sources

Primary Source: A Definition

“Primary sources provide first-hand testimony or direct evidence concerning a topic under investigation. They are created by witnesses or recorders who experienced the events or conditions being documented. Often these sources are created at the time when the events or conditions are occurring, but primary sources can also... [be] recorded later.”

Yale University. 2008. Yale University. Web. 06 March 2014
http://www.yale.edu/collections_collaborative/primarysources/primarysources.html

Secondary Source: A Definition

“A secondary source interprets and analyzes primary sources. These sources are one or more steps removed from the event. Secondary sources may have pictures, quotes or graphics of primary sources in them.”

Princeton University. 2014. Trustees of Princeton University. Web. 06 March 2014
<http://www.princeton.edu/~refdesk/primary2.htm>

Objective and Subjective Sources

"If you view something objectively, you view it from an outside perspective without bias. An objective analysis is one that is not based on your own opinions, beliefs or motivations. Subjective means an assessment is altered by your own opinions or biases. One trick that has always been particularly helpful to me is to try to think of the root of the words. So, objective equals object. Since an inanimate object has no opinion objective is the correct word to use when I intend to imply that there is none of my own.”

Reference.com. 2014. Dictionary.com. Web. 28 April 2014 <http://www.reference.com/motif/Society/difference-between-objective-and-subjective>

Subjective: A Definition

“relating to the way a person experiences things in his or her own mind : based on feelings or opinions rather than facts”

Objective: A Definition

“based on facts rather than feelings or opinions : not influenced by feelings : existing outside of the mind : existing in the real world”

Merriam-Webster. 2014. Merriam-webster, Incorporated. Web. 28 April 2014 <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/subjective> (and objective)