

## Factual vs. Analytical

### Factual Information

"Just the facts"

Objective

Real

"Something that actually exists; reality; truth,"  
*Random House Dictionary of the English Language*

#### Examples of factual Questions:

- "What is the temperature in Denver?"
- "Who won the Academy Award for best actor in 1993?"
- "What is the distance in miles between Cleveland and Chicago?"
- "How many cups are in a gallon?"

#### Examples of sources that contain factual information:

- *Dictionaries*
- *Atlases*
- *Handbooks*
- *Directories*

### Analytical Information

Interpretations

Analysis

Criticism

analyze- "to examine critically, so as to bring out the essential elements or give the essence of."  
*Random House Dictionary of the English Language.*

#### Examples of questions requiring analytical information:

- "What are the themes in Herman Melville's novel *Moby Dick*?"
- "What were the contributing factors to the increase of drug use in the 1960's?"
- "What are the related effects for two-career marriages and the traditional family structure?"

#### Examples of sources that contain analytical information:

- *Books*
- *Articles in journals*
- *Subject Encyclopedias*

## Objective vs. Subjective

### Objective Information

Without Bias

Non-judgmental

"not influenced by personal feelings, interpretations, or prejudices; based on facts,"  
*Random House Dictionary of the English Language.*

#### Examples of objective information needs:

### Subjective Information

Opinions

Personal viewpoints

Evaluations

Existing in the mind

#### Examples of subjective information needs:

- *Chronology of the Feminism movement*
- *The eight stages of development according to Erik Erikson*
- *A list of OSHA guidelines for restaurant employees*

**Examples of sources that contain objective information:**

- *Encyclopedias*
- *Subject Dictionaries*

- *Criticism of Eugene O'Neill's play "A Moon for the Misbegotten."*
- *Evaluation of a course based on class comments.*
- *Book review or movie reviews.*

**Examples of sources that may contain subjective information:**

- *Books*
- *Periodicals*
- *Classmates, Instructors, friends, etc.*
- *Media*
- *Internet*

**Primary vs. Secondary**

**Primary Information**

Information in its original form

Not translated by anyone else

Has not been published elsewhere

**Examples of primary information needs:**

- *Explanation or instructions from an employer or teacher*
- *An eyewitness account of a house fire*
- *A research article on the discovery of a new virus*
- *Georgia O'Keefe's interpretation of a flower*

**Examples of primary information sources:**

- *Research journals*
- *Firsthand accounts; Newspapers or television*
- *Diaries*
- *Original artwork*

**Secondary Information**

Repackaged

Examination, restatement or interpretation of primary information

Tools that lead to primary sources

**Examples of secondary information needs:**

- *Notes borrowed from a classmate for a missed class*
- *An explanation of "The Diary of Anne Frank"*
- *A bibliography on the letters of Ernest Hemingway*
- *An account of the journey of Lewis and Clark*

**Examples of secondary information sources:**

- *Bibliography*
- *Documentary*
- *Review Articles*