

Types of Information

| Information Type | Description | Sample Sources |
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| Scholarly | <p>Author: has some degree of authority in the field; typically has an academic post or is a researcher</p> <p>Audience: other experts in that field</p> <p>Purpose: advances a field a study by reporting new findings or ideas, increase author's authority and credentials in field</p> | <p>Where to find: Books, articles in scholarly journals, websites</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>New England Journal of Medicine</i> ➤ <i>The Explicator</i> ➤ Research findings on authoritative websites such as PubMed ➤ <i>Irony in the Short Stories of Edith Wharton</i> by Charlee Sterlingⁱ |
| 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> | <p>Where to find: Trade magazines & journals, association websites</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ www.ala.org (American Library Asso.) ➤ <i>Transport Topics</i> ➤ <i>RN</i> |
| Government | <p>Author: varies (could be government employee, elected official, or expert in a particular field)</p> <p>Audience: varies (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> | <p>Where to find: Printed government publications and official government websites</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Congressional Record</i> ➤ <i>Supreme Court Reporter</i> ➤ www.nih.gov National Institutes of Health |
| 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> | <p>Where to find: Books and websites, but not Wikipedia since it is edited by the public, not a staff.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ www.worldalmanac.com <i>World Almanac</i> ➤ <i>Statistical Abstracts</i> ➤ <i>American Heritage Dictionary</i> |
| Overviews | <p>Author: staff writers, freelance writers or scholars</p> <p>Audience: general public</p> <p>Purpose: provides overviews and background on a subject</p> | <p>Where to find: Encyclopedias, dictionaries, other books, websites</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Encyclopedia Britannica</i> ➤ <i>About.com</i> |
| 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> | <p>Where to find: Magazines, websites</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Rolling Stone</i> ➤ <i>InStyle</i> ➤ <i>Entertainment Weekly</i> ➤ www.etonline.com <i>Entertainment Tonight</i> |
| News | <p>News 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: reports current events in a timely fashion possibly influenced by editorial policy</p> | <p>Where to find: Newspapers, news magazines, news websites</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>New York Times</i> ➤ www.msnbc.com ➤ <i>TIME</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> | <p>Where to find: Books, magazines, websites</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Cult of the Amateur:</i> by Andrew Keenⁱⁱ ➤ National Rifle Association web site http://www.nra.org ➤ American Cancer Society web site http://www.cancer.org |
| Unsubstantiated or Uncredited Information | <p>Author: unable to substantiate identity of the author or author's credentials do not carry authority</p> <p>Audience: general public or unable to determine</p> <p>Purpose: hobby or personal interest</p> | <p>Where to find: Websites, info from friends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ personal websites ➤ blogs ➤ Bogus websites like http://www.malepregnancy.com |

ⁱ Charlee Sterling. *Irony in the Short Stories of Edith Wharon*. Lewiston, N.Y.: Edwin Mellen Press, 2005.

ⁱⁱ Andrew Keen. *Cult of the Amateur: How Today's Internet is Killing Our Culture*. New York: Doubleday/Currency, 2007.