

What is **Balanced Research**?

Good research is **balanced research**, which means you are using both **Primary and Secondary Resources**. What does this mean?

Consider the **primary** colors found in light: red, yellow and blue. If we want to create other colors, known as **secondary** colors, they are formed from the primary colors. For example:

To create the **Secondary** color green, we combine the **Primary** colors blue and yellow.

To create the **Secondary** color orange, we combine the **Primary** colors red and yellow.

To create the **Secondary** color purple, we combine the **Primary** colors red and blue.

Research resources work the same way. **Primary resources** are like the original colors found in light—they are where all the other information sources come from. **Secondary resources** are based on a combination of primary resources. For example:

An author writes a book (**Secondary** resource) about the journey of Lewis & Clark by looking at such **Primary** resources as a diary, drawings, medals traded with Native Americans and old maps dating back to the time of Lewis and Clark.

A college student writes a paper (**Secondary**) about the exploration of space by listening to such **Primary** resources as recordings made by astronauts, watching NASA films of actual historic events, and writing about observations made of real space flight artifacts which can be looked at in museums.

Where to Find Resources (Besides the Internet)

Library card catalog
State Historical Society of Iowa
Classroom library
School library
Public library
College library
Family library (don't forget to ask relatives about magazine stacks!)

Museums
Government agencies (national, state, county, city)
Mall exhibits (check the newspaper for announcements)
Community events (check the newspaper for announcements)
Family field trips
Bookstores
Movie rental stores
Classroom teachers' Web pages

Write a **P** before Primary resources. Write an **S** before Secondary resources.
Write **both** letters if a source could be both Primary and Secondary, depending on the circumstances.

<input type="checkbox"/> Online encyclopedia	<input type="checkbox"/> Documentary	<input type="checkbox"/> Almanac
<input type="checkbox"/> Online data collection	<input type="checkbox"/> Feature film	<input type="checkbox"/> Map
<input type="checkbox"/> Online museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Video or DVD	<input type="checkbox"/> Encyclopedia (online, CD, book)
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-fiction book	<input type="checkbox"/> Radio program	<input type="checkbox"/> Graph or pie chart
<input type="checkbox"/> Biography	<input type="checkbox"/> Lecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Dictionary
<input type="checkbox"/> Autobiography	<input type="checkbox"/> Tape or CD recording	<input type="checkbox"/> Will
<input type="checkbox"/> Magazine	<input type="checkbox"/> Diary	<input type="checkbox"/> Interview
<input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper	<input type="checkbox"/> Letter	<input type="checkbox"/> Brochure
<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing	<input type="checkbox"/> Artifact	<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing
<input type="checkbox"/> Photo	<input type="checkbox"/> Transcript	

