## Types of Information

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Information Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
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| **Scholarly**                  | Author: has some degree of authority in the field; typically has an academic post or is a researcher  
  Audience: other experts in that field  
  Purpose: advances a field by reporting new findings or ideas, increase author's authority and credentials in field | Where to find: Books, articles in scholarly journals, websites  
  ➢ New England Journal of Medicine  
  ➢ The American Journal of Political Science  
  ➢ Research findings on a website  
  ➢ Guns, Germs, and Steel: the Fates of Human Societies by Jared Diamond
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| **Professional/Trade**         | Author: member of a profession or trade but not necessarily a researcher  
  Audience: members of a particular field or trade  
  Purpose: informs, promotes, and generally strengthens the profession | Where to find: Trade magazines & journals, association websites  
  ➢ American Libraries  
  ➢ Fire Command  
  ➢ Nursing Times |
| **Government**                 | Author: varies (could be government employee, elected official, or expert in a particular field)  
  Audience: varies (could be public, elected official, or government agency)  
  Purpose: generally created to run the government, inform decision makers or inform the public | Where to find: Printed government publications and official government websites  
  ➢ Congressional Record  
  ➢ Supreme Court Reporter  
  ➢ Studies conducted by government agencies |
| **Facts, Definitions and Statistics** | Author: staff writers  
  Audience: general public or researchers  
  Purpose: presents facts, definitions and statistics with little explanation or evaluation | Where to find: Books and websites  
  ➢ World Almanac  
  ➢ Statistical Abstracts  
  ➢ American Heritage Dictionary |
| **Overviews**                  | Author: staff writers, freelance writers or scholars  
  Audience: general public  
  Purpose: provides overviews and background on a subject | Where to find: Encyclopedias, dictionaries, other books, websites  
  ➢ Encyclopedia Britannica  
  ➢ About.com |
| **Entertainment/Popular**      | Author: non-expert in a field usually with a degree in journalism or training as a writer  
  Audience: general public  
  Purpose: presents information in an interesting manner that does not necessarily focus on depth of coverage | Where to find: Magazines, websites  
  ➢ Rolling Stone  
  ➢ Glamour  
  ➢ Entertainment Weekly  
  ➢ Cosmo  
  ➢ The Sporting News |
| **News**                       | Author: non-expert in a field usually with a degree in journalism or training as a writer  
  Audience: general public  
  Purpose: reports current events in a timely fashion possibly influenced by editorial policy | Where to find: Newspapers, news magazines, news websites  
  ➢ New York Times  
  ➢ www.msnbc.com  
  ➢ TIME  
  ➢ Washington Post |
| **Special Interest/Opinion**   | Author: typically a non-expert in a field, but could be an expert expressing his or her opinion  
  Audience: general public/people subscribing to a particular point of view  
  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) | Where to find: Books, magazines, websites  
  ➢ We're Right, They're Wrong by James Carville  
  ➢ National Rifle Association Web site—http://www.nra.org |
| **Unsubstantiated or Uncredited Information** | Author: unable to substantiate identity of the author or author's credentials do not carry authority  
  Audience: general public or unable to determine  
  Purpose: hobby or personal interest | Where to find: Websites, info from friends  
  ➢ personal websites  
  ➢ blogs  
  ➢ note found in the library garbage can |

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