

# Primary vs. Secondary Sources in Sciences

## Definitions

	Sciences
<b>Primary Source</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Report of scientific discoveries</li><li>• Results of experiments</li><li>• Results of clinical trials</li><li>• Social and political science research results</li><li>• Factual, not interpretive</li></ul>
<b>Secondary Source</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Analyzes and interprets research results</li><li>• Analyzes and interprets scientific discoveries</li></ul>

## Examples

	Sciences
<b>Primary Sources</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Published results of research studies</li><li>• Published results of scientific experiments</li><li>• Published results of clinical trials</li><li>• Proceedings of conferences and meetings</li></ul>
<b>Secondary Sources</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Publications about the significance of research or experiments</li><li>• Analysis of a clinical trial</li><li>• Review of the results of several experiments or trials</li></ul>

## Specific Example

	Primary Source	Secondary Source
<b>Psychology</b>	Results of clinical trial to treat ADD by modifying diet	Book about ways to treat childhood ADD without drugs

Adapted from: [lib1.bmcc.cuny.edu/help/sources](http://lib1.bmcc.cuny.edu/help/sources)