

## Craft of Research (CoR): Chapter 5 – From Problems to Sources

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The 10 **salient sentence strings** presented below are lifted from the chapter without modification. They are presented in order of appearance in the chapter.

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### Ten Salient Sentence Strings

1. Primary sources are “original” materials that provide you with the “raw data” or evidence you will use to develop, test, and ultimately justify your hypothesis or claim. (Quote – top of page 66).
2. Secondary sources are books, articles, or reports that are based on primary sources and are intended for scholarly or professional audiences. (Quote – middle of page 66).
3. [Tertiary Sources] are books and articles that synthesize and report on secondary sources for general readers, such as textbooks, articles in encyclopedias (including Wikipedia), and articles in mass- circulation publications like Psychology Today. (Quote – bottom of page 66).
4. It is also important to understand that the classifications of primary, secondary, and tertiary are not absolute but relative to a researcher’s project. In most instances, an article in a scholarly journal would generally be considered a secondary source. But it would become a primary source if your research problem concerned its author or the field itself. (Quote – bottom of page 67).
5. Because so much information is now at our fingertips, libraries are more essential than ever when conducting research. Libraries not only let us access information but also ensure that our sources are reliable. (Quote – bottom of page 68).
6. Perhaps the best advice we can offer is to rely on the research expertise of librarians. Both general reference librarians and (in larger libraries) subject area specialists can help you refine your search parameters and direct you to the right tools for your specific research question. (Quote – middle of page 69).
7. Compiled by experts, both general reference works such as the Encyclopedia Britannica and more specialized works such as the Encyclopedia of Philosophy will give you the lay of the land, so that later it will be easier to see how your sources fit within the bigger picture. In addition, reference works often include citations or bibliographies that can lead you to sources you might otherwise overlook. (Quote – middle of page 70).

8. In your research, you will probably need to use your library's catalog in two complementary ways: keyword searching and browsing. When you have examined some sources to identify a list of keywords associated with your topic, you are ready to use these terms to search the catalog. In most libraries, you must choose the category (books, articles, journals, etc.) you wish to use for your search. (Quote – bottom of page 71).
9. Doing research online is faster than on foot, but if you never go into the stacks of your library (assuming you're allowed to), you may miss crucial sources that you'll find only there. More important, you'll miss the benefits of serendipity—a chance encounter with a valuable source that occurs only when a title happens to catch your eye. (Quote – middle of page 73).
10. Many online catalogs and databases let you look up other sources that cite one that you already know. This technique, called citation indexing, is like following a bibliographic trail, forward or backward. (Quote – middle of page 74).