



BHARATHIDASAN UNIVERSITY

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Programme: M. Master of Library and Information Science (M.LIB.I.Sc)

Course Title : Information Resources

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Unit-I

Types of Information resources

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Information Sources

- The sources wherefrom we get information are information sources. These sources comprise documents, institutions and organizations, and human beings.
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Types of Information Sources:

They are two types of sources,

Documentary Sources

Non-documentary Sources

Documentary Sources of Information

All sources in the form of documents are documentary sources and these are further categorized as

- Primary Sources
 - Secondary Sources and
 - Tertiary Sources
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Primary Sources:

- ❑ These are the first hand materials, which have not been filtered through interpretation or evaluation by a second party.
 - ❑ These are first published records of original research and developments.
 - ❑ These materials tend to be the most current ones.
 - ❑ These are unorganized, widely scattered and disconnected.
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Primary Sources are

- Periodicals
 - Research Reports
 - Conference Proceedings
 - Reports of Scientific Expeditions
 - Official Publications
 - Patents
 - Standards
 - Trade Literature
 - Theses and dissertations
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Cont...

❑ Periodicals:

These include journals bulletins, transactions, proceedings or other similar works issued at regular intervals with a consecutive number.

❑ Research Reports:

Research report is the form of report on research and developments on a particular field of knowledge.

❑ Conference Proceedings:

These are in the form of articles written by the experts on a given subject. These proceedings cover one aspect of a subject for which a symposium/Conference/seminar will be organized.

Cont...

- ❑ Reports of Scientific Expeditions :
These scientific expeditions cover existing literature on a given topic with the authors original contribution on that topic.
 - ❑ Official Publications:
Government documents are official publication ordered and normally published by the state and local governments. These are generally brought out by institutions, Corporate bodies, private enterprise about their activities, statistics concerning their developments etc.
 - ❑ Patents:
Patents are granted for new inventions and discoveries including processes, machines, manufacturer items etc. These are frequently used by scientist and technologist to acquire information about the quality of materials and product of engineering and technology. Eg: Indian patents office
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□ Standards:

A standard is a measure of designation of quality, consisting of a list of specifications. It means that goods are of a certain quality regardless of the procedure. Eg: Indian Standard Institution

□ Trade Literature :

Trade literature provides information about equipment or goods or services pertaining to manufacturers. These are generally published and issued by manufacturers or dealers. This may be in the form of catalogue prices, technical bulletins etc.

□ Theses and dissertations:

It is unpublished and provides information about a given subject, place or person. This shows the evidence of original research, and to help the researchers for conducting further research in the concerned field.

Secondary Sources

- Secondary sources are the sources of information about primary or original data which usually have been modified, Selected or rearranged for a purpose or an audience or group of users.
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Cont...

Secondary sources are

- Periodicals
 - Indexing and Abstracting periodicals
 - Review of progress
 - Reference Books
 - Treatises
 - Monographs
 - Text Books
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Cont..

Periodicals :

It contains of articles and its published on regular intervals. Periodicals which are specialized in interpreting and commenting or development reported in the primary literature.

Indexing and Abstracting periodicals :

It is a regularly issued compilation of periodical articles titles, that appear in the current primary source journals.

It is useful in literature searches and general reference work.

These will assist in preparing a list of articles on particular subject and covering a specified period.

Example :Periodical Literature

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Abstracting Periodical

Abstract is a summary of an article, book or pamphlet. Abstracting periodicals is a regularly issued compilation of summaries of significant articles in a given subject.

Cont..

Review of progress :

It provides background information to a new area in a suitable form.

It shows the improvements and trends in the area concerned.

Published in Annual, Half Year and Quarterly.

Example : Annual review of information science and technology.

Reference Books :

Book designed by its arrangement and treatment to be consulted for definite items of information rather than to be read consecutively.

Example : Dictionaries, encyclopaedias

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Treatises :

A treatises is a book which treats of some particular subject and contains of formal or methodical discussion or expression of the principle of the subject.

It provides the information so as to enable a person to acquire basic knowledge and to carry for the advances sources.

Monographs :

Monographs is a separate tree is on a single object.

Text Books :

This are meant for the use of student in a particular branch of study, usefully contains exercise for working.

It aims to provided the basic knowledge on the subject in a essay language.

Tertiary Sources

- It consist of information and reading materials which is distilled and collected from primary and secondary sources.
 - The main function of there sources is to help the readers / Information seekers in using the primary and secondary sources. They are
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- ❑ Directories
 - ❑ Bibliographies of bibliographies
 - ❑ Guides to Literature
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1. Directories :

Directories is a list of persons or organization systematically arranged in alphabet classical order. Normally is gives, address, applications etc. for individual officers.

Example : World guide to Technical Information and Documentation series by UNESCO world of learning.

2. Bibliographies of Bibliographies :

It lists bibliographies which direct readers to useful bibliography through subject name of an Individual place, and Institution.

Example : Bibliographies Index, Cumulative Bibliography of bibliographies.

3. Guide to literature :

A guide to literature helps the reader to acquaint the literature of a given subject. It emphasis more on literature of a particular subject rather than the content.

Example : Reader guide to the sources (Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature by EBSCO)

Non Documentary Sources:

Other than the traditional documentary sources are Non Documentary Sources.

- ❑ These can provide the immediate answer to certain queries.
 - ❑ These information sources are life sources.
 - ❑ More up-to date
 - ❑ It gives practical Research "Know how".
 - ❑ It gives special techniques, Hints and warnings.
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Types :

- Formal -- Systematical
 - Informal – Non Systematical
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Cont...

Formal

- Government departments central and local
 - Research Organisations
 - Learned and Professional Societies
 - Private and Public Industries
 - Universities and colleges and
 - Consultants etc..
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Informal

- Discussions with colleagues, visitors etc.
 - Corridor meetings at conferences etc.
 - Casual Conversations, Social gatherings etc.
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Uses of the Information Sources:

- ❑ To keep up to date and well informed of the new developments, trends and advancements in various fields of knowledge.
 - ❑ To avoid duplication in research
 - ❑ To help others to conduct further research and thus generate more current information
 - ❑ To know what other researchers are doing or about to do in a particular field
 - ❑ To provide answers for some specific queries
 - ❑ To furnish background information to understand a subject
 - ❑ To provide all the relevant information on a given subject
 - ❑ To browse a wide variety of knowledge.
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