	Description	Examples	Advantages (Strengths)	Disadvantages (Weaknesses)
Primary Sources	First hand information witnessed or created at the time of the event	Interview Original document Artifact Autobiography Guest speaker Diary Letters Speech Photograph/Video Court artist's sketches Raw data (statistics)	Authentic Often accurate Gives you a sense of what it was like	Not a balanced perspective Limited information Limited availability Might not understand Fragile
Secondary Sources	Second hand information, often based on primary sources; not present at the actual event	Wikipedia Textbook Documentary Biography Magazine Painting of an earlier event Non-fiction library book play, movie teacher analysis of data	Can be more balanced Often based on primary sources Multiple perspectives Variety of information Stands the test of time, conflict Can provide background Cheaper Available Less fragile	They weren't there Might not be accurate Biased Motives can be suspicious

Oral Histories	Unwritten, verbal information that is passed down through the generations	Urban legend Social customs Family story Recipe Family values/ standards A corrido (Spanish ballad that tells about a historical event) Holiday traditions	Can explain, give more depth Can't get broken Won't lose information May be only infor-mation available Lots of people may have heard it	Info can change (think "telephone") Source dies Question motivation Information can be embellished People's memories change