Primary Resources

…a source in which the researcher presents a detailed report of the results from his /her research study directly to the reader.

Look for:

Evidence of a research study-
  experimental
  descriptive
  correlation
  historical
  ex-post-facto

Details about the study-
  hypothesis
  population/Sample
  methodology/Statistics
  results/Discussion

Secondary Sources

…a source whose main purpose is to list, summarize, and evaluate previous research studies so as to draw conclusions concerning our current state of knowledge about a particular subject.

Look for:

Goal statement such as-
  to review the literature
  examine
  critique
  review the evidence
  provide
  historical overview

Brief mention of previous research studies within the context of discussing what we know about the subject.

Includes an extensive bibliography and possibly a lengthy table comparing previous research studies.

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