

Flow of Information

Report of Event	Time Frame	Type of Information	Access to Information (How to Find)
Radio/TV/Internet News Service	Seconds/Minutes	News reporting; quick information; sketchy reports; may not have much analysis	TV News Indexes; Web Search Tools
Newspapers (print & electronic), TV, radio and web pages	Day/Days+	Any subject of interest; newsworthy events; local coverage; geared to the general public; written by professional journalists; some contributed by specialists; more analysis, statistics, graphics, photographs, editorial opinion; no bibliography or list of sources	Newspaper Indexes (e.g., <i>Academic Universe</i> , <i>National Newspaper Index</i>)
Magazines (e.g., news magazines like <i>Time</i> , for example)	Week/Weeks	Popular topics, current affairs, geared to the general public and/or the knowledgeable layperson; written by professional journalists; some by specialists; strong emphasis on reporting: who, what, where, when and why; general discussion; editorial opinion; graphics; photographs; advertisements; usually no bibliography or list of sources	Periodical Indexes (e.g., <i>Expanded Academic ASAP</i>)
Scholarly or academic journals (print & electronic)	6 months+	Research results, frequently theoretical in nature, geared to scholars, specialists, and students; written by specialists in the field; usually scholars with PhDs; content includes more detailed examination; statistical analysis; graphics; bibliography usually included	Periodical Indexes; Bibliographies
Books; also, published conference proceedings begin to appear.	2+ years; some in less time; topic may generate books for decades.	In-depth coverage of a topic, geared to those ranging from the general public to specialists; written by specialists/scholars; content varies from general discussion to detailed analysis; usually includes extensive bibliography	Library Catalog (e.g., Pegasus); Bibliographies
Reference Sources [e.g., <i>Encyclopaedia Britannica</i> or other encyclopedias; Handbooks (print & electronic)]	Generally, 4-10 years	Factual information; the Big Picture; overviews and summaries of interest to those from the general public to specialists; written by specialists/scholars; includes convenient summaries of knowledge to date; may include data, statistics, directories, bibliographies	Library Catalog (e.g., Pegasus); Bibliographies