Types of Scientific Literature
Types of Scientific Literature

• Primary Literature
• Secondary Literature
• Tertiary Literature
• Peer-Reviewed Literature
• Grey Literature
• Primary Literature

refers to accounts of research carried out personally by an individual scientist or as collaboration by a group of scientists, which is published in a peer-reviewed scientific journal.
Characteristics of Primary Literature...

• Title
• Abstract
• Keywords
• Introduction
• Material & Methods
• Results
• Discussion
• Acknowledgements
• References

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Secondary Literature

consists of publications that rely on primary sources for information. The purpose of the publication is to summarize and synthesize knowledge in a specific area for other scientists who already have an understanding of the topic.
Examples of Secondary Literature

- Review journals
- Monographic books
- Textbooks
- Handbooks
- Manuals
Tertiary Literature

consists of published works that are based on primary or secondary sources and that are aimed at scientists who work in different areas from the subject matter of the publication, or towards an interested but lay audience.
Examples of Tertiary Literature

• Science magazines
• Newsletters
• Science articles in newspapers
• Introductory textbooks
• Encyclopedias
Grey Literature

refers to sources of scientific information that are not published and distributed in the usual manner and which therefore may be difficult to obtain.
Examples of Grey Literature

• Theses and dissertations
• Technical reports
• Special interest group journals
• Classified government documents
• Conference Proceedings
Peer Review (Scholarly)

Process through which experts in a field of study examine and assess the quality of articles before they are published.

NOTE: Your final research projects should utilize scholarly works, unless otherwise noted by your professor.