

Level : Master I (DAELE)

Module : Methodology in Assessment

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Sources of Information

Sources of Information

- The process of research depends on the collection of data from different sources.
- A source of information may refer to a person, a book, a document, a newspaper or a website . There are three types of sources of data: primary, secondary and tertiary.

Primary Sources

- Primary sources provide first-hand information; they are original sources that were either produced at the time of the issue under study or published by the person who created the idea, theory or work.
- Primary sources include diaries, letters, speeches, works of art or literature, archives, video recording, photographs, films and historical documents as well as books or theses providing first-hand information about the topic.

Primary Sources

- In the domain of educational research, primary sources often take the form of research tools such as observation, questionnaires, interviews and tests. These instruments furnish data that are gathered by the investigator from the sample.

Primary Sources

- Primary sources are characterized by authenticity and originality. They help to provide raw data about the studied topic. However, the collection of such a type of information may be time consuming. Moreover, the researcher may face a difficulty at the level of the availability of these sources.

Secondary Sources

- Secondary sources provide second-hand information. They involve interpretations, discussions or opinions about the original material. They are produced by another person different from the one who created the idea or original work. They can include books, articles, dictionaries, encyclopaedias and bibliographies.

Secondary Sources

- Secondary sources enable the researcher to write a literature review, provide arguments and summarize previous research findings. They help to supply more details about the studied topic. However, they may be shaped by subjectivity and unreliability.

Tertiary Sources

- Tertiary sources give an overview of the subject from primary and secondary sources. They provide an analysis of the two types of data. They enable the researcher to find references. Nevertheless, they do not supply details about the studied issue. Tertiary sources include year books, bibliography of bibliographies and union catalogues.

Tertiary Sources

- A year book is also called an annual or ready reference source; it is an annual volume providing information about specific topics.
- A bibliography of bibliographies is a list of bibliographies according to a certain topic, place, period or person.
- A union catalogue is a catalogue that describes the books and documents existing in some libraries.

Data Sources

- When writing a research work, the researcher mainly relies on the use of primary and secondary sources for the provision of sufficient data about the topic taking into consideration the validity and reliability of the information obtained from those sources.

References

- Beins, B.C. (2004). Research Methods: A Tool for Life. Cambridge: CUP.
- Singh, G. (2013). Information Sources, Services and Systems. Delhi: PHI Learning Private Limited.