Flow of Information: A Timeline

Save time by looking for information on your topic at the point where it begins to fit into the flow of information. Think about the occurrence of an event, era, social movement or discovery. Think about how this event might be documented and information about the event disseminated. Then choose the appropriate tool to find documentation. Remember to think about the point of view or slant of each source.

Time After Event	Sources for Information	Tools for Locating the Information
Seconds/Minutes	Radio, TV, Internet	Web Sites and Web Search Tools
Day / Days +	Newspapers (print and electronic)	Newspaper Indexes (such as *ProQuest*)
Week / Weeks	Popular Magazines (print and electronic)	Periodical Indexes (*EBSCOhost*, *ProQuest*, etc.)
weekly to 1+ years	Reference Sources: • Statistical/Hot Topics	Reference Tools such as *CQ Researcher*, *Statistical Abstracts*. Reference databases. Specialized web sites.
6 months +	Scholarly/Academic Journals (print & electronic)	Periodical Indexes (*EBSCOhost*, *ProQuest*, etc.) Subject bibliographies.
2+ years	Books and e-books	Library Book Catalog, bibliographies, works cited lists. Web tools such as Google Books and WorldCat.
average 10 years	Reference Sources: • Subject Encyclopedias, Handbooks, etc. (print and electronic)	Library Book Catalog, bibliographies, works cited lists. Web tools such as Google Books and WorldCat.

Adapted from Sharon Hogan's "Flow of Information" conceptual approach to library instruction and UCLA College Library.

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