

Module 2.2. Information and Publications

Publication is the process in which information or data is made more widely available to people. There are a variety of publication formats and types, such as:

- Books
- Magazines and Newspapers
- Periodical articles
- Maps
- Dissertations and Theses
- Data & Statistics
- Patents
- Government Publications

Knowing what type of publication to use will be dependent on your research needs.

- Who is your audience? Is the intended audience of your research the general public, or is meant for researchers of that field of study?
- How much depth do you require the resource to go into the research topic?
- What kind of information do you require on the topic? Do you need background or introductory information, or do you need more detailed information about the topic?
- What type of information or publications are need? Are magazine or newspapers appropriate? Or are peer-reviewed journal articles required?

When looking at information, it is important to consider the external factors when information is published. The factors can influence the topic and how it develops over time.

Time or year of publication have significant influence on a topic. The information related to a specific topic will naturally develop over time as individuals conduct research on a topic. In some research areas, such as medicine and computing science, information about a topic will increase and change at a fast rate because there are new discoveries or technological advances.

Economics determine whether there is available funding to conduct research in different disciplines. There are leading scholars and researchers for every discipline located around the world. These scholars and researchers are publishing new information in their research areas, resulting in some countries having more funding and resources available for the research area.