What is primary source material, primary research, or primary literature? What is a peer reviewed article? (Bet you didn’t know that everything you say is a primary source!)

Primary literature contains the original research results reported by scientists. It includes conference proceedings, dissertations, journal articles, and patents. Before research results are published in a scientific journal, they must pass a rigorous review process by other scientists, called peer review.

Using the new Cuesta Library Search system:
• Search keyword phrase Human genome: then check each facet (limiter) on the left pane one at a time to narrow results
• Try “Human genome” and facets. Phrase searching helps narrow results.
• “Human genome” AND disease: using Boolean connector (must be in caps) with facets gets the number of results down even more

Go to Advanced Search option under Search box to see a list of all of the database choices.

Primary Research documents: some tips for recognizing them.
• Most of them will be PDF, due to graphs, tables, etc
• Most will have more than one or two authors
• If you open the document, it will have a Summary of the research (Abstract), an introduction, methodology, results, discussion and a good bibliography. Look for articles that are more than a few pages long.

Other online full text options, using search engine: Learn buzzwords: “genetics open access journals” “online journals botany”, etc.

Some useful sites:


**OMIM (Online Mendelian Inheritance in Man):** get to it from Resource List on NCBI home page.


**PLOS genetics:** [http://journals.plos.org/plosgenetics/](http://journals.plos.org/plosgenetics/) : research articles are so designated.

**Directory of Open Access Journals:** [https://doaj.org/](https://doaj.org/)

[http://www.biomedcentral.com/](http://www.biomedcentral.com/) peer-reviewed open access. Each research article is labeled as such. Recent and full text.

Don’t reinvent the wheel. Go to expert pages already existing. Google- “genetics journals” or “online genetics journals”.

**Citing sources**

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