



INFORMATION TIMELINE Meriam Library - California State University, Chico



When an event occurs and as it develops, information about it is generated and disseminated. The first reports show up on the Internet, television, and the radio. These first reports focus on the quick facts: *who, what, where*. As time passes **information filters through different types of resources**, with the level of coverage increasing and becoming much more detailed and analytical.

| TIME | SOURCE(S) | TYPE OF INFORMATION | AUTHORS | AUDIENCE | LOCATING |
|-------------------------|---|--|--|---|--|
| Day of the Event | Radio, TV, WWW | General: who, what and where (usually not why) | Journalists | General public | WWW search tools |
| Days Later | Newspapers, Radio, TV, WWW | Varies: some articles include analysis, statistics, photographs, editorial opinions | Journalists | General public | WWW search tools, newspapers, periodical databases |
| Week(s) Later | Popular and mass market news magazines (i.e., <i>Time</i> , <i>Newsweek</i>) | Still in reporting stage (who, what, where and why); general; editorial and opinions; statistics; photographs; usually no bibliography available at this stage | Journalists (usually not specialists in the field) | General public to knowledgeable layperson | WWW search tools, newspapers, periodical databases |
| Months Later | Trade magazines and scholarly journals | Research results, detailed and theoretical discussion; bibliography available at this stage | Specialists & scholars in the field | Scholars, specialists, students | Periodical indexes and databases |
| One Year to Years Later | Scholarly journals; books; conference proceedings Reference sources such as encyclopedias. | In-depth coverage of a topic; edited compilations of scholarly articles relating to a topic; bibliography available General overview giving factual information; bibliography usually available | Specialists & scholars in the field | General public to specialists Scholars, students, laypersons | Library catalogs, periodical indexes and databases Library's reference collection |