

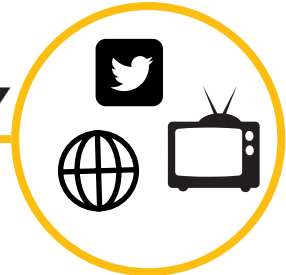
Information Cycle

The Information Cycle is the process through which information is produced, circulated, used, and changed in stages over time.

After an event, information generally starts with:

Social Media, the Internet, & "Breaking News" TV

SAME DAY



Twitter, CNN, Blogs, etc.

Newspapers and Thorough TV Coverage

DAY AFTER



New York Times, Washington Post, BBC News, etc.

Popular Magazines

WEEKS AFTER



Time, The New Yorker, etc.

Scholarly Journals

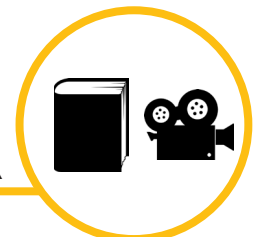
MONTHS AFTER



American Journal of Potato Research, Journal of Near-Death Studies

Books and Documentaries

YEARS AFTER



No Easy Day, Life After People, etc.

INFORMATION CYCLE: DETAILS

- Sources are often not fact checked early in the information cycle.
- Later sources in the information cycle may be more accurate.
- Many sources do not have a reference list until months after an event.
- Sources later in the information cycle may correct inaccurate information in earlier sources.
- Scholarly journals may not provide background on an event, but will provide deep analysis on one or more aspects.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

The [video tutorial](#) for the information cycle as well as other additional tutorials can be found at <https://library.gmu.edu/tutorials/student-tutorials>.

Other helpful tutorials include:

- [Primary and Secondary Research](#)
- [Source Types](#)

