



Transcription of

Academic and Primary Sources

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Hi, I'm Nevada McPherson, and I'm a professor of English at Georgia Military College at the Milledgeville campus. And I'm here to talk with you today about academic sources. In primary and secondary sources, the GMC Library is the best place to start for academic resources, and you can find a link to the library home page in your Moodle and also on the Quick Links section of the GMC homepage. And so you can access the library catalog to find books. Books are often great sources and a lot of it's found online now, but you can also access e-books.

And if you think about primary and secondary sources for a moment, books can be a great primary source. Say, for example, if you have to write an English paper about a story by Edgar Allan Poe, and so you find a book of stories by Edgar Allan Poe, that is a primary source because it was original work written by that author.

And primary sources can also be books of original research or data for secondary sources. If you're doing a literary research paper on Poe and you have to find some secondary sources or some analysis by experts in the field or professional literary critics and you find a book of essays or articles on Edgar Allan Poe and on his stories. That is a secondary source because it contains analysis of that primary source, which is the book of stories.

Another great, great resource that you have access to as a student at GMC are the library databases, and these can be found. There's a link to just all the databases. And then if you're looking for one specific to a particular topic, say if you're in an English class or if you're in the social sciences or history or some other course the librarians have compiled a list of the best databases for that subject area. So you can go to your library guide first and see what databases that the librarians recommend. These are very powerful resources for you because they are considered good scholarly academic sources.

And yes, there there's a lot of information on the Internet, but that's a lot to filter through. And you have to really carefully evaluate it. And there are ways to do that. And but just to be sure that you really are getting the best information if you access the database is you will find excellent primary sources as far as the best research, the best raw data and information by scholarly researchers, scientists, critics, depending on your subject area that you are whatever your project is that you're working on and you can find information to help you with that.

And then if you're doing a literary paper, you can find some of the best scholarly critiques or criticism. There are a lot of academic journals in those databases that because you're a student here, you have access to those. And it's just the best way to be sure that you have really good, solid sources for your paper or for any research project that you're working on.

If you have questions about how to use the databases, you can ask the librarian. If you're there at the library, you can ask one of the librarians there. But if you're working online, you can also access a link called Ask a Librarian, and you can ask questions online that way. But I'm a big fan of the library. I always take my classes over to the library for library instruction so that they can learn how to use the databases because you really are fortunate to have access to those.

And it's usually through a school or university that you're able to have access to that wealth of information that is right out there for you for for any project that you need. And I've provided a sheet recapping all of this that you can access along with this video. So best of luck with all your work and all your research, and please consider using the databases before going to the open Internet for your for your research projects.