Information Creation as a Process

In order to appreciate the timeliness, accuracy, and complexity of a work, you need to understand the purpose and processes behind its creation.

Minutes after an event: **Internet/Social Media**

*Information:*
- Is continuously updated as new details become available
- May lack details, facts, and accuracy
- Is written by a mix of anyone: your peeps, bloggers, journalists, etc.

*Examples: Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Instagram*

Day/Days after an event: **News Reports**

*Information:*
- Contains more details about an event than earlier reports
- Is written by journalists, and while often factual, may reflect bias
- Is intended for a general audience


Week/Weeks after an event: **Magazines**

*Information:*
- Is more in-depth; may discuss the impact of an event on society
- Does not include a list of sources, though may provide links to sources
- Is intended for a general audience

*Examples: Time, New York Magazine, Newsweek*
Months after an event: **Scholarly Journals**

**Information:**
- Is written by experts in the field: researchers, scientists, etc.
- Includes detailed analysis, and a full list of sources (bibliography)
- Is written for researchers in the field and users at a research level

**Examples:** *Journal of Islamic Studies, Journal of Financial Economics*

Year/Years after an event: **Books**

**Information:**
- Expands analysis and may place an event in a historical context
- Is written by a mix of professional and non-professional authors
- Will sometimes include in-text citations and a full list of sources

**Example:** *Columbine: A True Crime Story* by Jeff Kass (2013)

Year/Years after an event: **Reference Sources**

**Information:**
- May lack the details/specifics of earlier sources (e.g. journal articles)
- Provides summaries and overviews, often with a list of sources
- Written for a general audience

**Examples:** *Encyclopedias, Textbooks, Dictionaries, Handbook*