Primary vs Review Sources

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Primary vs Review Sources

In research, there are multiple types of sources to choose from. A primary article is one in which original research is being published for the first time. The findings in this type of article directly state the findings of a particular experiment. These articles are written by the researchers themselves to share their findings with other scientists and the world. Primary articles are formatted in a particular way. The sections go as follows: the abstract, the introduction, the method, the results or findings, the discussion, the conclusion, and any references utilized. The abstract allows the reader to quickly get a basis of the contents of the article. The introduction tells the reader why the article was written. The method describes the experiment, and the results simply state the findings of the experiment. The discussion addresses the outcomes of the experiment while the conclusion addresses the way the results may be utilized (Library, 2022).

A review article is a bit different. The information contained within a review article surveys information that was previously published- almost always from a primary source. The purpose of review articles is to analyze the information that was published in a primary source. A lot of times, review articles make the information more easily digestible by the average reader who may have a very limited scientific background. Because the information within these articles is not directly from the source, they are considered secondary sources (Library, 2022).

The peer review system is utilized to determine the quality of a manuscript before it is published. The major steps in the process include the initial submission by the author, from there the article is then sent to an editor, then to reviewers who are subject matter experts- almost always in the same peer group as the author of the manuscript submitted. From here, the editor then accesses the reviews and either requests revisions, or further reviews or accepts or rejects the manuscript. The process is not always linear and can be cyclic in nature and continuously

repeat depending on how much review is needed or if more information needs to be added (Kely, 2014).

The primary source of the two articles provided is “Permanent inactivation of Huntington's disease mutation by personalized allele-specific CRISPR/Cas9” by Ranjit S. Atwal et al. This is the primary source because it contains the original study. The article details the results of the study with the first sentence of the results section stating, “Our extensive characterization of many haplotypes carrying the HD mutation points to the need in such disorders for a personalized approach to mutant allele-specific strategies to eliminate the production of the toxic mutant huntingtin protein.” The secondary source is the “Huntington’s Disease: Mechanisms of Pathogenesis and Therapeutic Strategies” article by Floriana Licitra et al. This article reviews the studies conducted on Huntington's disease and makes this clear in the beginning paragraph with the sentence “Here, we review some of the currently known functions of the wild-type huntingtin protein and discuss the deleterious effects that arise from the expansion of the CAG repeats.”

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References

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