Source Type	Description
Academic Journals, Conference Papers, Dissertations, etc.	Scholarly (peer-reviewed) academic sources publish primary research done by professional researchers and scholars in specialized fields, as well as reviews of that research by other specialists in the same field. For example, the *Journal of Computer and System Sciences* publishes original research papers in computer science and related subjects in system science; *International Journal of Robotics and Animation* is one of the most highly ranked journals in the field.
Reference Works	Specialized encyclopaedias, handbooks and dictionaries can provide useful terminology and background information. For example, the *Kirk-Othmer Encyclopedia of Chemical Technology* is a widely recognized authoritative source. **Do not** cite *Wikipedia* or *dictionary.com* in a technical report.
Books, Chapters in Books	Books written by specialists in a given field and contain a References section can be very helpful in providing in-depth context for your ideas. For example, *Designing Engineers* by Susan McCahan et al. has an excellent chapter on effective teamwork
Trade Magazines and Popular Science Magazines	Reputable trade magazines contain articles relating to current issues and innovations, and therefore they can be very useful in determining the "state of the art" or what is "cutting edge" at the moment, or finding out what current issues or controversies are affecting the industry. Examples include *Computerworld*, *Wired*, and *Popular Mechanics*.
Newspapers (Journalism)	Newspaper articles and media releases can offer a sense of what journalists and people in industry think the general public should know about a given topic. Journalists report on current events and recent innovations; more in-depth "investigative journalism" explores a current issue in greater detail. Newspapers also contain editorial sections that provide personal opinions on these events and issues. Choose well-known, reputable newspapers such as *The New York Times*.
Industry Websites (.com)	Commercial websites are generally intended to "sell," so you have to select information carefully, but these websites can give you insights into a company's "mission statement," organization, strategic plan, current or planned projects, archived information, White Papers, technical reports, product details, costs estimates, *etc.*
Organization Websites (.org)	A vast array of .org sites can be very helpful in supplying data and information. These are often **public service** sites and are designed to share information with the public.
Government Publications and Public Sector Web Sites (.gov/.edu/.ca)	Government departments often publish reports and other documents that can be very helpful in determining public policy, regulations, and guidelines that should be followed. *Statistics Canada*,[2] for example, publishes a wide range of data. University web sites also offer a wide array of non-academic information, such as strategic plans, facilities information, *etc.*
Patents	You may have to distinguish your innovative idea from previously patented ideas; you can look these up and get detailed information on patented or patent-pending ideas.
Public Presentations	Public Consultation meetings and representatives from industry and government speak to various audiences about current issues and proposed projects. These can be live presentations or video presentations available on **YouTube** or **TED talks**.