The Information Cycle

- **The Day Of...**
  - Television, Internet & Radio

- **The Week Of...**
  - Newspapers

- **The Week After...**
  - Popular Magazines

- **Months After...**
  - Academic & Scholarly Journals

- **Year or Years After...**
The Day of an Event

Television, Internet & Radio

- The information:
  - Provided through up-to-the-minute resources like broadcast news, Internet news sites, and news radio programs
  - Quick, generally not detailed, and regularly updated
  - Explains the who, what, when, and where of an event
  - Can, on occasion, be inaccurate
- Authors: primarily journalists
- Audience: general public
The Day After an Event

Newspapers

● The information:
  ○ Longer as newspaper articles begin to apply a chronology to an event and explain why the event occurred
  ○ More factual and provides a deeper investigation into the immediate context of events
  ○ Includes quotes from government officials and experts
  ○ May include statistics, photographs, and editorial coverage
  ○ Can include local perspectives on a story

● Authors: primarily journalists
● Audience: general public
The Week or Weeks After an Event

Popular Magazines & News Magazines

- The information:
  - Long form stories that begin to discuss the impact of an event on society, culture, and public policy
  - Detailed analysis of events, interviews, opinions and analysis
  - Offers perspectives on an event from particular groups
  - While often factual, information can reflect the editorial bias of a publication
- Authors: professional journalists, essayists, commentary by scholars or experts in the field
- Audience: general public or specific nonprofessional groups
Six Months to a Year After an Event

Academic & Scholarly Journals

- The information:
  - Detailed analysis, empirical research reports, and learned commentary related to the event
  - Often theoretical, carefully analyzing the impact of the event on society, culture, and public policy
  - Peer-reviewed, ensuring high credibility and accuracy
  - Written in a highly technical language
  - Includes detailed bibliographies
- Authors: scholars, researchers, and professionals, often with Ph.D’s
- Audience: other scholars, researchers, professionals, and university students in the field
A Year to Years After an Event

Books

- The information:
  - In-depth coverage of an event, often expanding and detailing themes, subjects, and analysis begun in academic research and published in journals
  - Places an event into some sort of historical context
  - Can provide broad overviews of an event
  - Can range from scholarly in-depth analysis of a topic, to popular books which provide general discussions and are not as well-researched
  - Might have a bias or slant, but this dependent on the author
  - Includes bibliographies
- Authors: scholars, specialists, researchers, and professionals, though credentials of authors vary
- Audience: can be intended for a broad audience depending on the book, ranging from scholars to the general public
A Year to Years After an Event

Government Publications

- The information:
  - Comes from all levels of government from state, federal, and international governments
  - Includes reports compiled by governmental organizations and summaries of government-funded research
  - Is factual, often including statistical analysis
  - Often focuses on an event in relation to public policy and legislation

- Authors: governmental panels, organizations, and committees
- Audience: intended for all audiences
A Year to Years After an Event

Reference Material

• The information:
  ○ Considered established knowledge
  ○ Published years after an event takes place, in encyclopedias, dictionaries, textbooks, and handbooks
  ○ Includes factual information, often in the form of overviews and summaries of an event
  ○ May include statistics and bibliographies
  ○ Often not as detailed as books or journal articles

• Authors: scholars and specialists
• Audience: intended for a general audience, but may be of use to researchers, scholars or professionals
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