TYPES OF INFORMATION RESOURCES

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UM Library

Information can come in many shapes and forms

Information can be printed and published, online on websites and social media, it can be in the form of interviews, videos, research papers, books, leaflets, posters, case studies, etc...

REFERENCE INFORMATION

Material that collects, condenses, digests, summaries and categories primary and secondary literature (e.g. encyclopedias, directories, almanacs)

- Useful for acquiring general understanding of a subject especially in the beginning of the search process

- useful for locating brief, factual information, such as definitions, statistics or addresses

Where would you go to find infromation about:

- A TV personality's life
- The scientific name of a bird
- A Country's budget
- A General description of Bioethics
- How to cook a particular dish
- How to perform the Heimlich manoeuvre
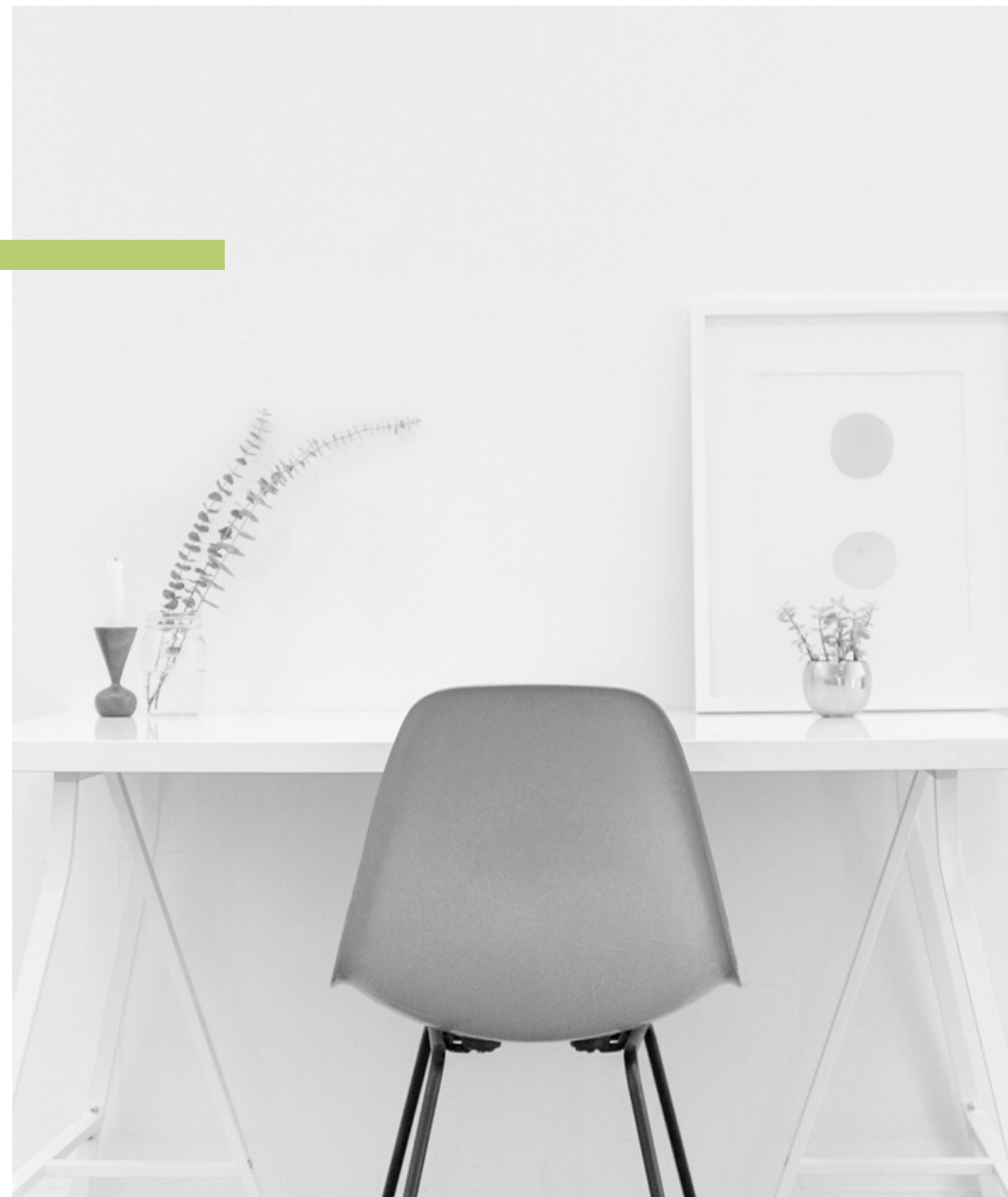
DICTIONARIES

Alphabetically arranged: provide factual information about the meaning, etymology (origins, history) and pronunciation of words

- General language dictionaries, such as The Oxford English Dictionary or the Cambridge Dictionary of American English

- Technical or special term dictionaries: cover different subject areas (useful for a particular intended audience)
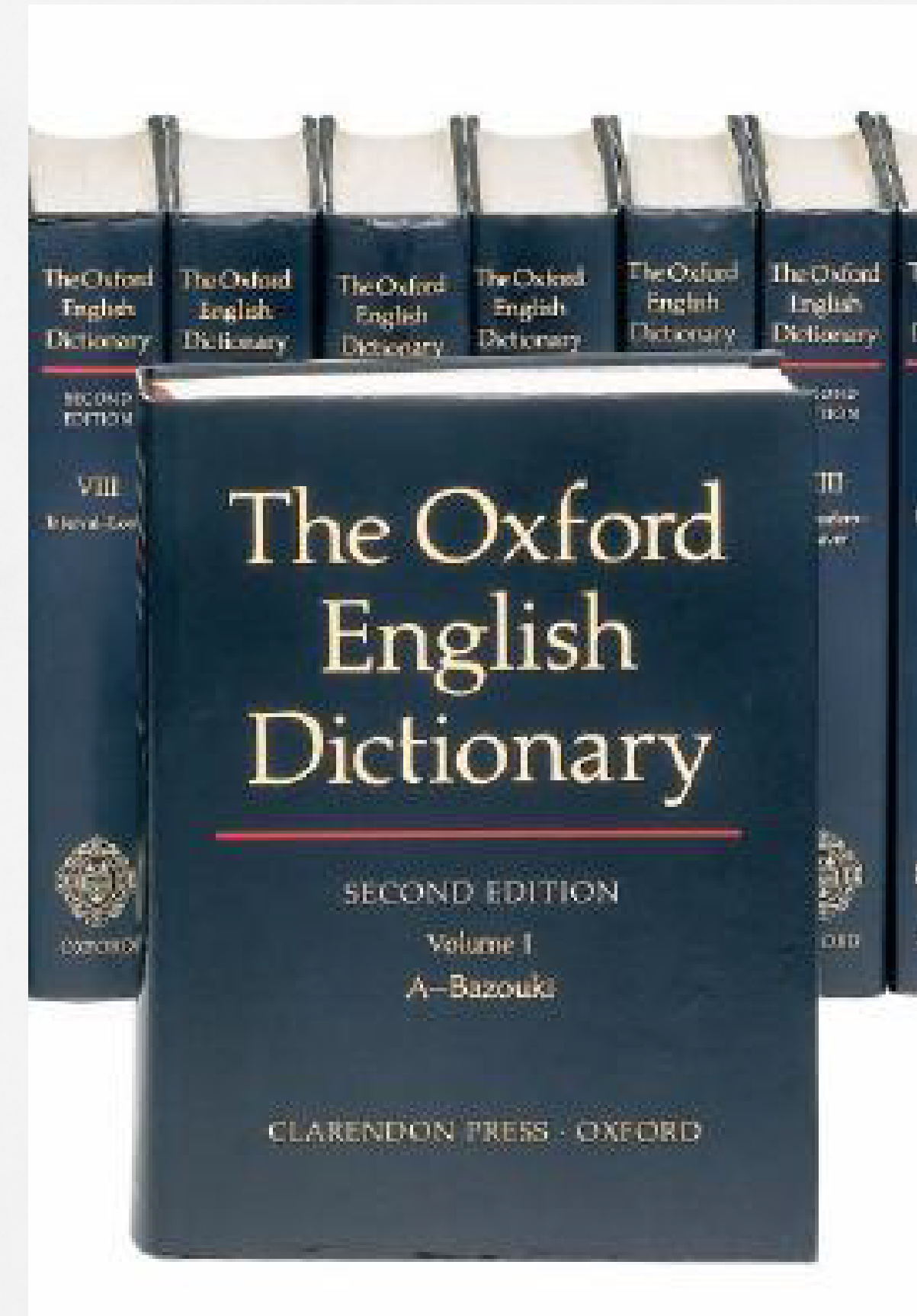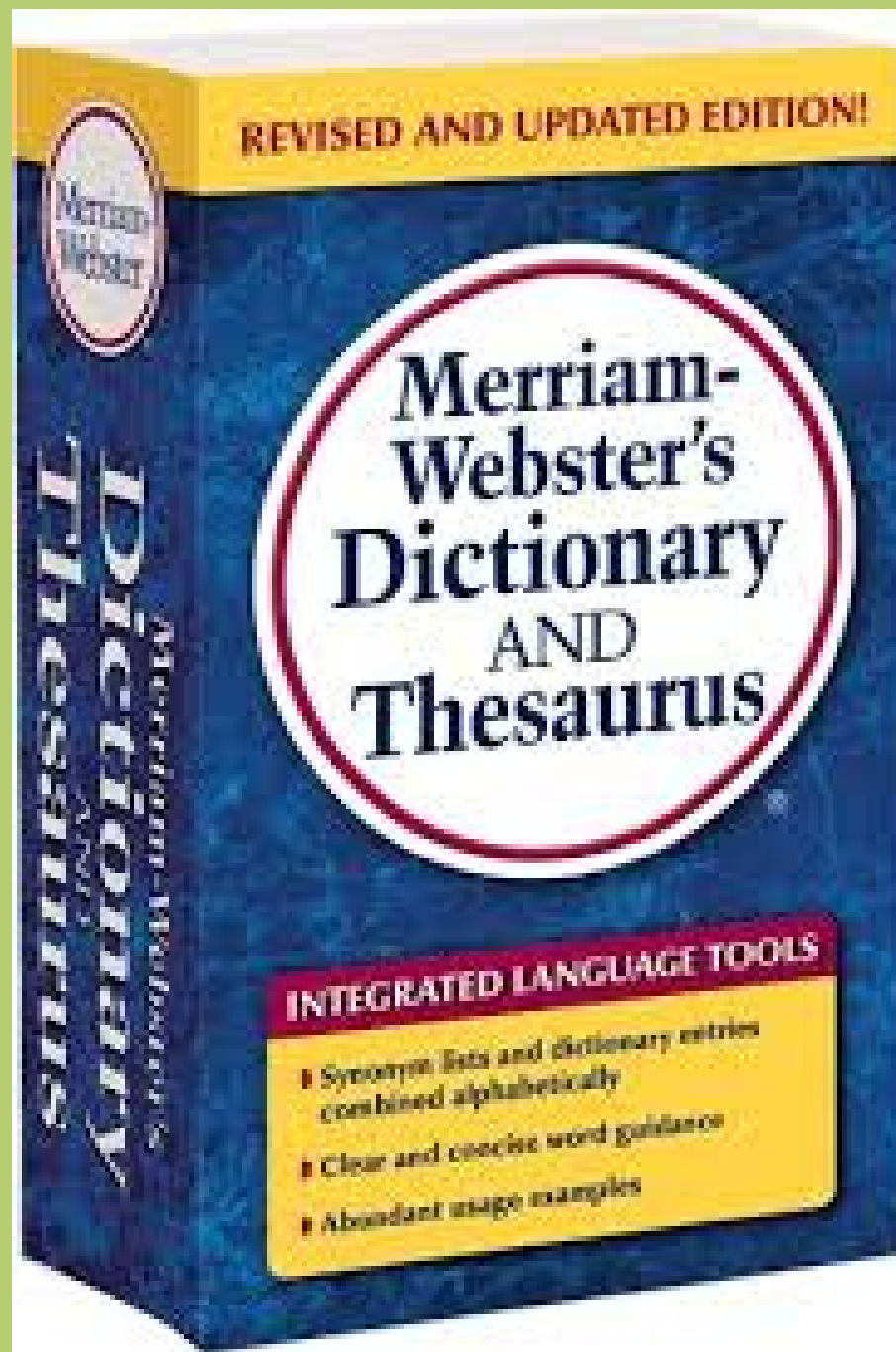
THESAURI

(SYNONYMS OR ANTONYMS OF TERMS)

Can also used in databases for describing, indexing and accessing information (referred to as controlled vocabulary)

- http://thesaurus.com
- http://www.merriam-webster.com
- http://thesaurus.babylon.com/ and many more.

ENCYCLOPEDIAS

GENERAL ENCYCLOPEDIAS

- Concise overviews that outline the most important facts on a wide variety of topics

- Good starting points for non-specialists and for those who are not familiar with a particular subject
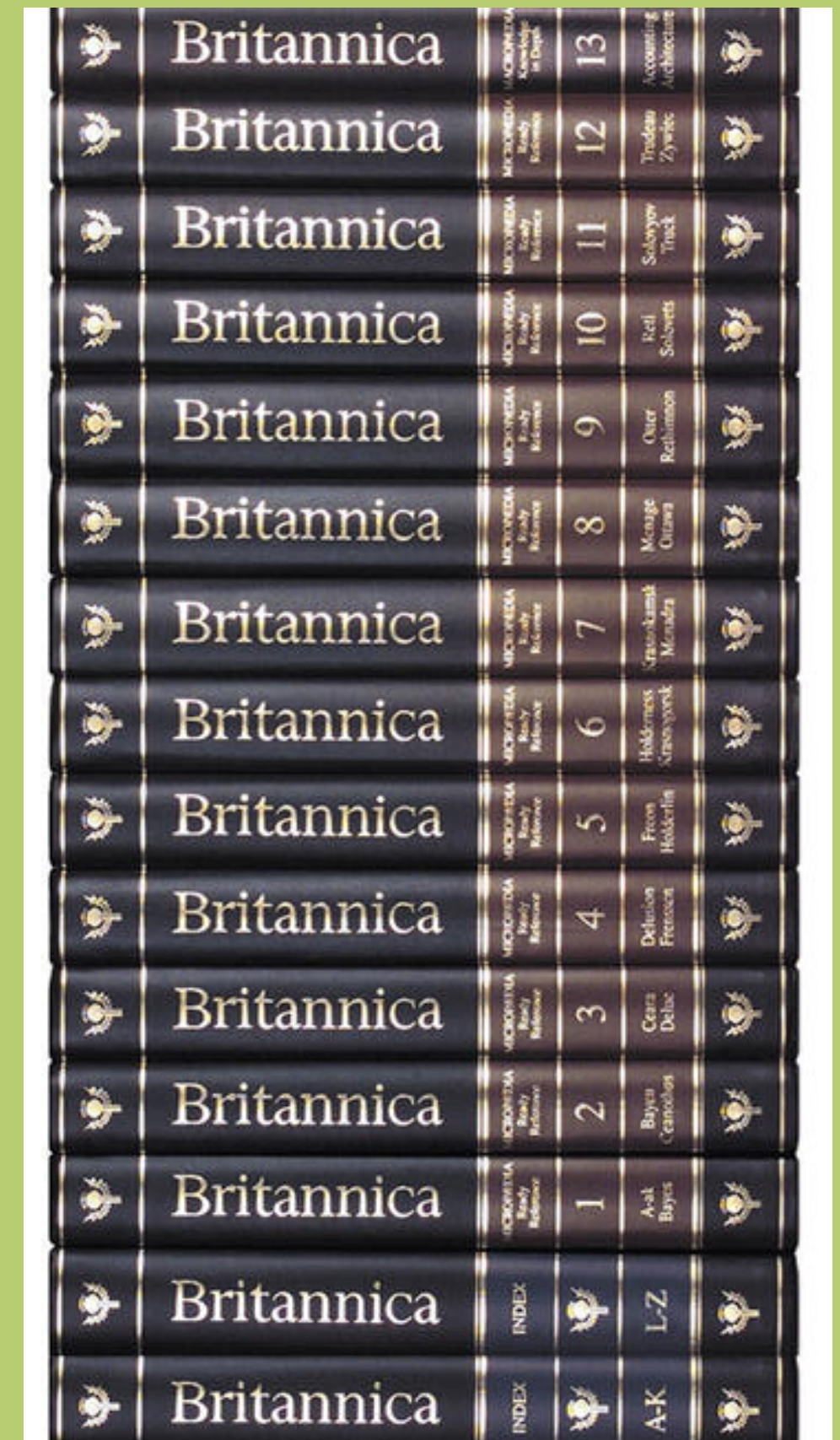
ENCYCLOPEDIAS

SPECIALISED ENCYCLOPAEDIAS

- Provide expert commentary on particular fields or subject areas

  - Encyclopedia of Science and Technology (introductory information)

  - International Encyclopedia of Laws (a more specialised encyclopaedia which covers the whole spectrum and the specialties of international laws)
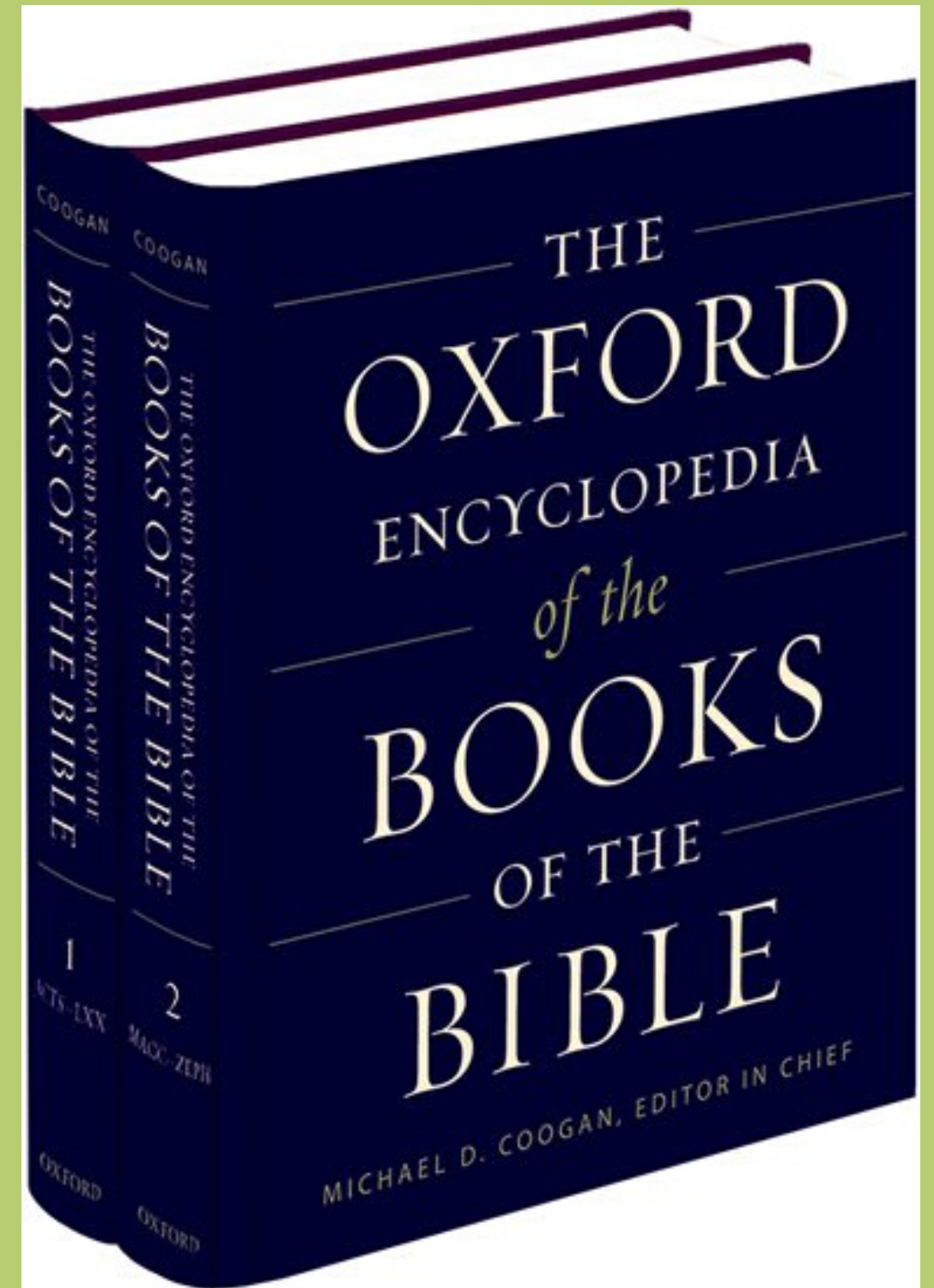
HANDBOOKS

Handbooks, manuals and guides (used interchangeably): instructional publications / practical and basic information on a topic.
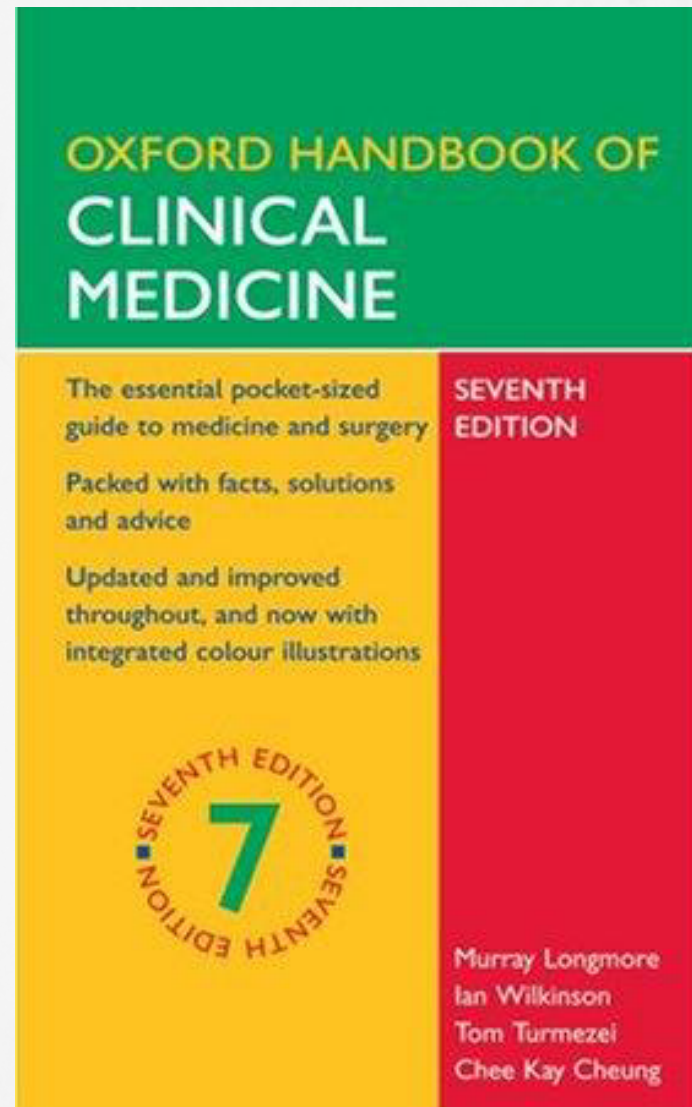
ALMANACS

Almanacs and Yearbooks: basic facts, statistical information, tables, charts and lists related to events or people - little explanation or discussion.
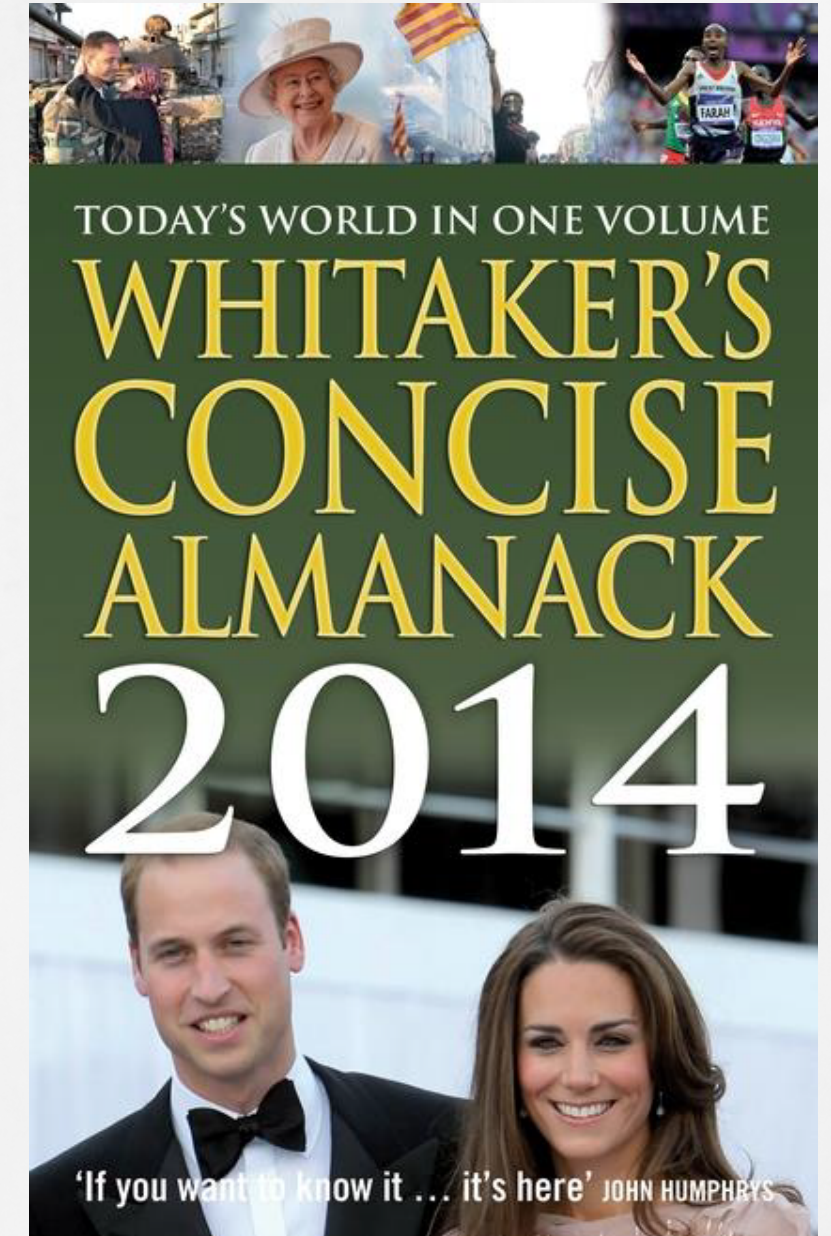
BOOKS / e-BOOKS

Cover a breadth of materials and repackage information that has been produced elsewhere.

Useful for obtaining general background information and putting a topic in context.

Problems

- It can take a few years between the completion of a work and its publication in the form of a book (not the most valuable source for scientific and technical topics)

- Not suitable for very specialized or narrow topics

JOURNAL DATABASE

A database is a searchable collection of information.

A database is where you find journal articles.

Each database contains thousands of articles which you can search for simultaneously and quickly to find articles with higher relevancy than searching in individual journals.

Check out the UM Library Database collection:

www.um.edu.mt/library/databases

JOURNAL LITERATURE

Periodical and journal = synonymous - the term magazine is reserved (in UK usage) for the more popular mass-circulation titles

Particularly significant in academic, commercial, industrial and research libraries

Key source of current material: takes less time to get a journal article published than a book (although this may vary - prestigious journals/electronic)

Content: organised in volumes and issues and published regularly (e.g. weekly, monthly, quarterly)

- Articles on separate subjects
- Written by a variety of authors, designed to stand alone

JOURNAL LITERATURE
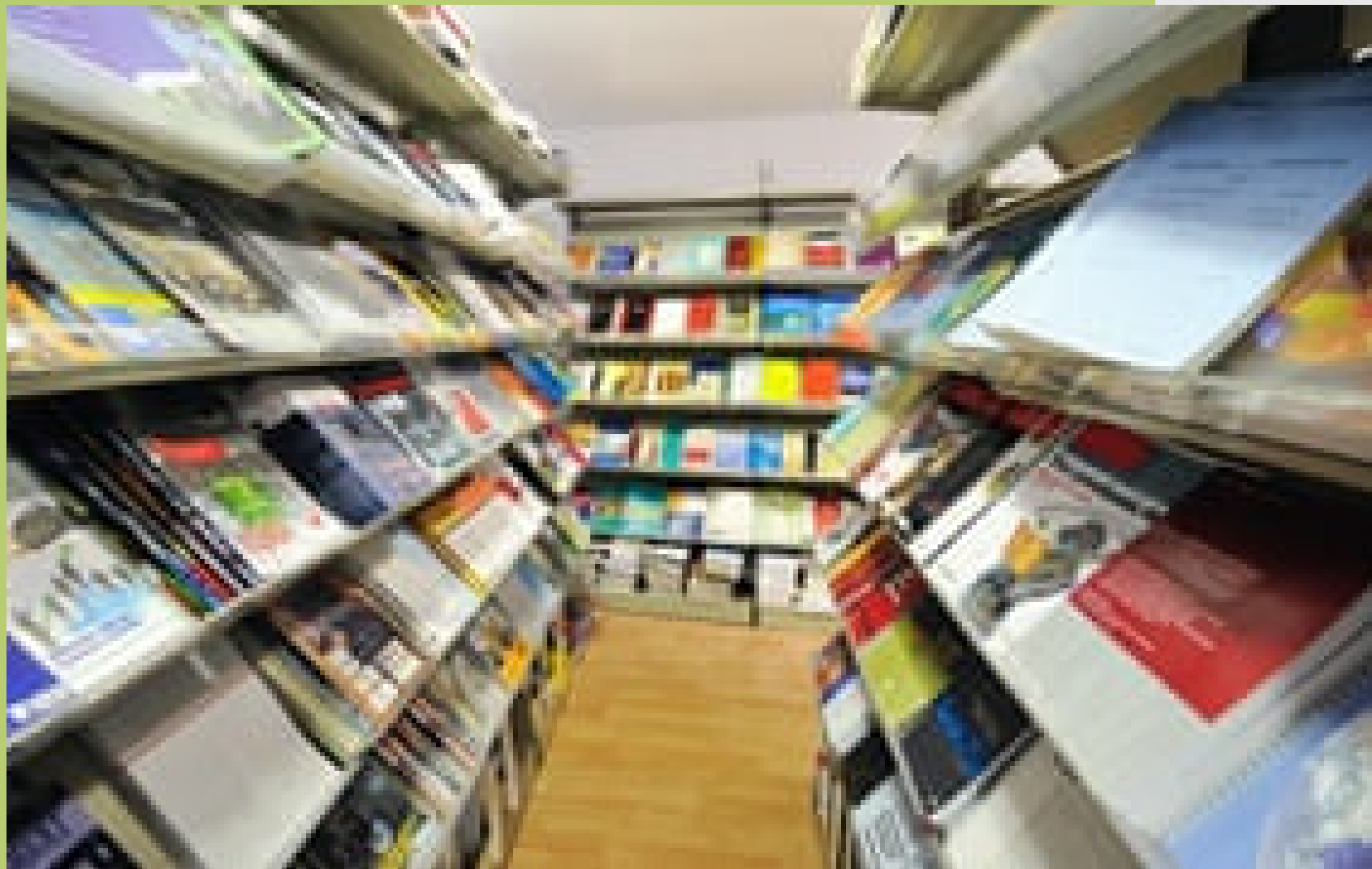
General/mainstream business magazine articles: news, business developments, market trends, new ideas and the movement of people (e.g. articles published in The Economist, Business Week, etc.)

Trade and technical journal articles: specialised readership - news and information of interest to that narrow group, often of technical nature, e.g. Corporate Adviser, Financial Director and Real Business

Academic professional journal articles: a disciplinary or a practice-based approach - based upon research and development (e.g. The Journal of Management, Accounting Review, Personnel Management, etc.)

GREY LITERATURE

The Luxembourg Convention on GL defined grey literature as:

"that which is produced on all levels of government, academics, business and industry in print and electronic formats, but which is not controlled by commercial publishers" (Third International Conference on Grey Literature, GL"97).

Grey literature consists of a number of different types of publication:
- Reports;
- Theses and dissertations;
- Conference proceedings or papers;
- Translations.

GREY LITERATURE

Escapes the net of conventional bibliographic control - not subject to legal deposit

It is often not intended for wide or free access / limited to a very small group of people/organisation

The organisations that have produced it may be completely unwilling to divulge the information to external users

- The information may have been commissioned at great expense (e.g. market research reports)
- Information critical to the commercial/competitive success of the organisation
- Confidentiality – patent application, controversial information

REPORTS

A report is a document that presents information in an organized format for a specific audience and purpose. They are usually a response to an inquiry or investigation (e.g. government, organisational or institutional)

- Published faster than books / many are never officially published - no quality control or peer reviewing in operation

- Some reports (e.g. scientific and technical reports, market research reports) can be costly/can become obsolete fast

- Bibliographic details (title, author, date of publication) of certain types of reports (published reports) can be found on databases

THESES OR DISSERTATIONS

Statements of investigation or research submitted in order to obtain a higher degree (MPhil and PhD-level theses)

- not published commercially

- not likely to attract a sufficiently broad readership for commercial publication

- produced in very limited numbers
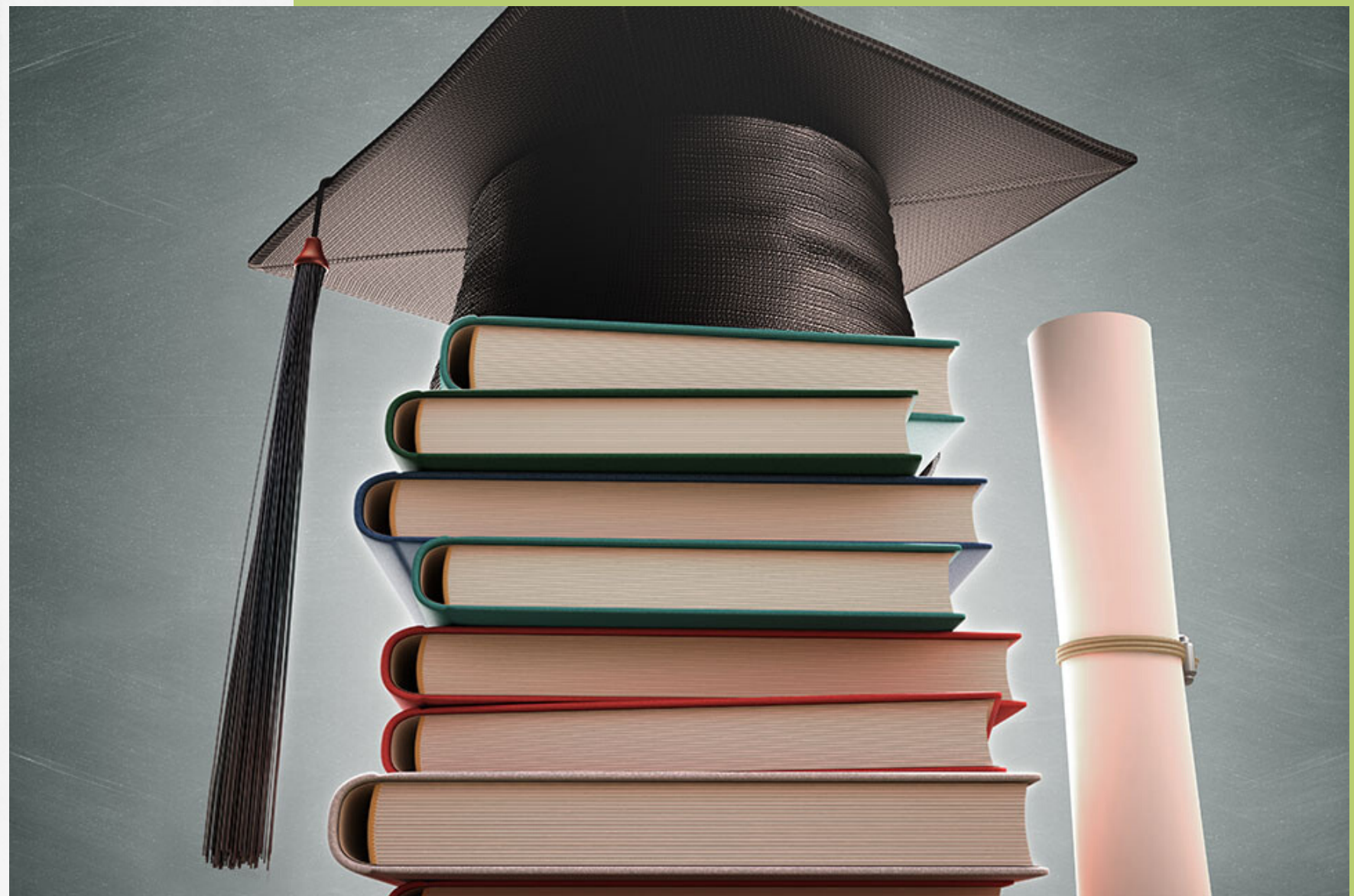
CONFERENCE PAPERS

The text of papers or presentations made at conferences, seminars and meetings

- Referred to as pre-prints: may be circulated in advance of the meeting in order to facilitate discussion and response

- Scientific, technical and business fields (timely and of current interest)

- Published as part of a monograph collection of proceedings of the conference, or as journal articles

- The best respected and most authoritative authors tend to be asked to present papers, which are often thoroughly peer reviewed

Where was this information about Health found?
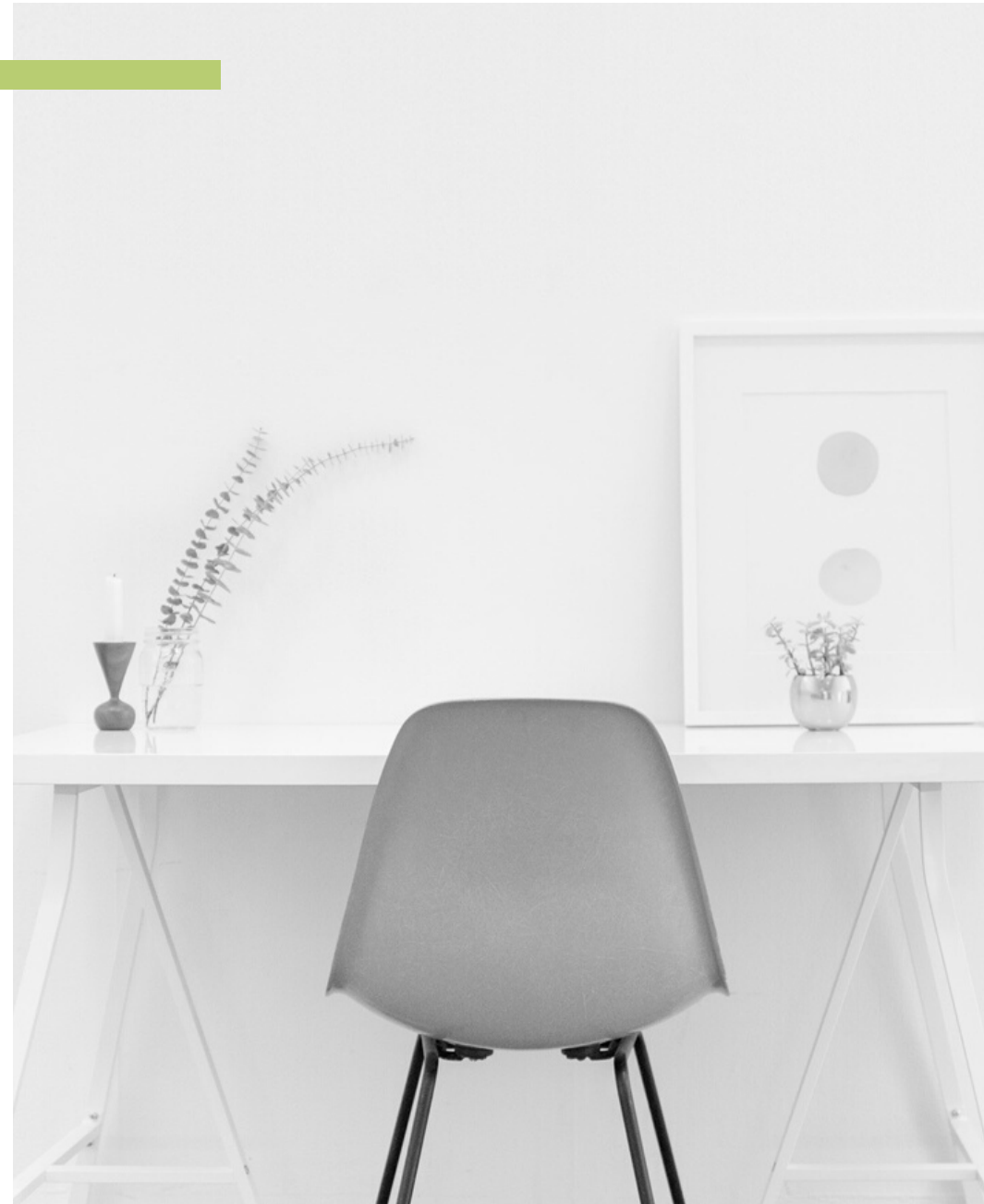
Health, in humans, the extent of an individual's continuing physical, emotional, mental, and social ability to cope with his or her environment.

At 17.1%, the United States spent the highest share of GDP on health in 2017, while Turkey allocated around 4.2% of its GDP in the same year.

Parents of 28,058 twins participated in a well-validated telephone interview regarding their children's mental health and answered questions about their physical problems.

THE MEANING AND SIGNIFICANCE OF DIFFERENT INFORMATION TYPES VARIES DEPENDING ON THE CONTEXT AND THE TASKS FOR WHICH THE INFORMATION IS GOING TO BE USED.

QUALITATIVE

Qualitative research is a scientific method of observation to gather non-numerical data. This type of research "refers to the meanings, concepts, definitions, characteristics, metaphors, symbols, and description of things" and not to their "counts or measures".

QUANTITATIVE

Quantitative research, is defined as a systematic investigation of phenomena by gathering quantifiable data and performing statistical, mathematical or computational techniques. Quantitative research gathers data in a numerical form which can be put into categories, or in rank order, or measured in units of measurement..

One-on-One Interview

Case Study Research

Focus Groups

Qualitative Research Methods

Record Keeping

Ethnographic Research

Process of Observation

Qualitative Research

Research that use a variety of methods to develop deep understandings of how people perceive their social realities and in consequence, how they act within the social world. For example, diary accounts, open-ended questionnaires, documents, participant observation, focus groups, interviews, etc...

Quantitative Research

Quantitative research gathers information using sampling methods. Examples include: online polls, questionnaires, observations about measurable qualities, etc... The results of which can be depicted in numerical form. Usually this type of data can be used to construct graphs and tables of raw data

Let's do a Quiz!

Play multiplayer quizzes!

Find quizzes on any topic and practice or compete with friends.

quizizz

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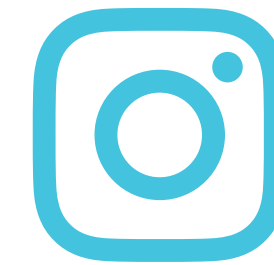
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QUESTIONS? COMMENTS?

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