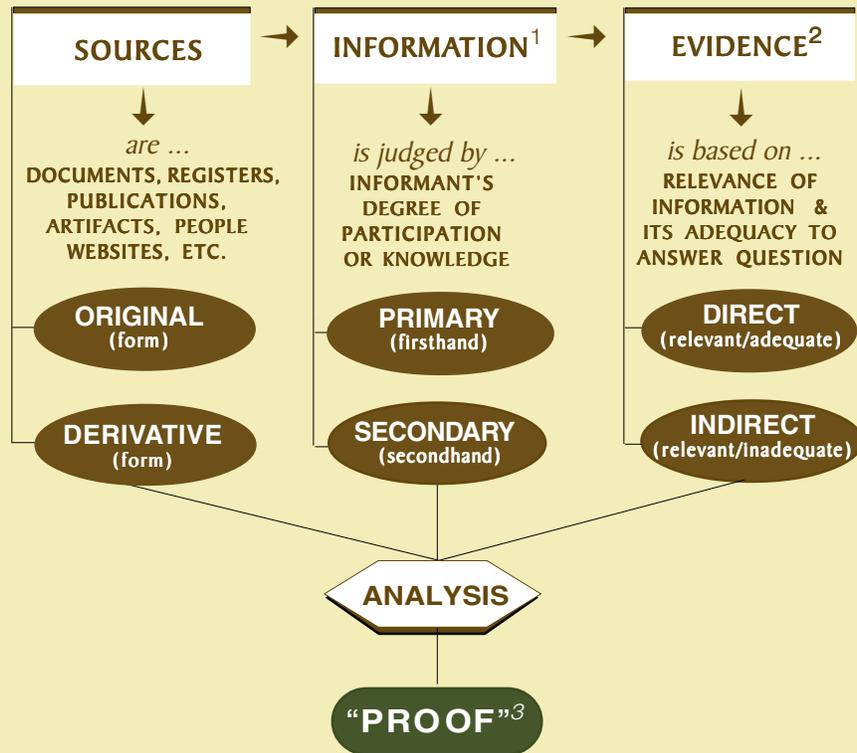


Evidence Analysis

A Process Map

Basic Principle:

SOURCES provide INFORMATION
from which we select EVIDENCE for ANALYSIS.
A sound CONCLUSION may then be considered "PROOF."



Auxiliary Principles:

1. The evaluation of material as *primary* or *secondary* applies to each individual piece of *information*. Neither term can accurately describe a *source* or all content in a source.
2. To judge whether an *information* statement can serve as *evidence*, one must first define the research question that needs an answer.
3. "*Proof*" is a conclusion based on the sum of all the *evidence*. It must rest on reasonably exhaustive research in the best possible sources. All evidence must be well analyzed, well correlated and well documented, with all conflicting evidence resolved.

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For a fuller discussion of these principles, see
Elizabeth Shown Mills, *Evidence Explained: Citing History Sources
from Artifacts to Cyberspace*, 2d ed. (Baltimore: GPC, 2009)