<div align="center">**Sources for Research Papers**</div>

Secondary sources
Your MMW papers should be supported by research gathered from secondary sources of scholarly merit: sources that have been written by academics and published in peer-reviewed publications (books, journal articles, essays, and/or textbooks). These sources should reflect the latest research on your topic, typically work that has been published within the past 25 years. You can consult dictionary and encyclopedia sources when you're doing your preliminary research, but you should avoid using them in your paper except to provide small amounts of background information. Acceptable secondary sources for an MMW paper include:

Academic (non-fiction) books, book chapters, anthologies, and essay collections
These sources are typically published by university presses (e.g., University of California Press, Oxford University Press) or other academic presses (e.g., Norton, Routledge). If you are not sure about a particular press, ask your TA.

Articles (not abstracts or book reviews) from academic journals or quarterlies
You can find peer-reviewed articles through the UCSD MMW14, 15, or 22 Library Guide; Melvyl (or any academic library catalogue); academic journal databases such as JSTOR, Project Muse, EBSCO, or any other listed in the UCSD Library Databases (on the UCSD Libraries website, click on the Research Tools tab, then on the Databases A-Z tab); and individual academics' personal web pages.

Scholarly information from academic web sites (i.e. those that are peer-reviewed)
Some academic websites provide reliable information from well-documented, scholarly sources. If you plan to use ANY academic website that is not a database for journal articles (see above), you should consult your TA and you must submit a Criteria for Evaluating Websites from with each on-line source. Otherwise, you run the risk of using an inappropriate website, which might result in a reduction of your paper grade.

Primary Sources
A primary source is a document or physical object that was written or created during the historical period that you are investigating. Primary sources include, but are not limited to:
>**Original documents**: diaries, speeches, manuscripts, letters, interviews, film/video footage, autobiographies, official records. It is acceptable to use excerpts or translations of original documents
>**Creative works**: Poetry, drama, novels, music, paintings, sculpture
>**Relics, artifacts**: Pottery, furniture, clothing, buildings

Unacceptable secondary sources
Because all MMW papers must be based on reliable information from reputable sources, and because you must provide photocopies or printouts of all of the sources that you cite, some resources are not acceptable *as secondary sources* for MMW writing assignments. They include:

> **Books accessed via Google Books**
> Google Books is a search service that allows you to read print sources online. Unfortunately, the extent of Google's—and your—access to those sources varies considerably, sometimes seriously affecting the comprehensibility of the source. The aim of Google Books is to help you to discover books and to learn where to borrow them, not to replace the original sources. Moreover, you cannot reliably download or print the pages that you read online. (Note: the same is true of other entities, such as Amazon, that allow you to "look inside" books and to read a small number of pages online.)

> **Works of fiction**
> Unless you are using them as primary sources, works of fiction do not contain research-based information and thus are not acceptable research sources.

> **Print or online articles in popular magazines**
> Since popular magazines do not require their authors to credit their sources, you can never be sure that the material they publish is reliable.

> **Non-scholarly websites, blogs, and tweets**
> The authors of non-scholarly websites, blogs, and tweets can write whatever they please, without having to cite their sources or otherwise demonstrate that their claims are based on reliable evidence.

> **Encyclopedias, dictionaries, and other short reference works**
> Generalized reference works can be a useful place to start a research project, but since the information they provide lacks depth or specificity, you should use them only for very minor points in your paper.

When in doubt, ask
Assessing the reliability and appropriateness of your sources can be daunting. It is not at all easy, for example, to evaluate a website, even one published under the aegis of a major research university. (That is, just because a website's URL ends in "harvard.edu" doesn't necessarily mean that you can trust it.) It can also be difficult to determine just what counts as a primary source, not to mention whether a particular primary source is relevant to your research project. If you ever have doubts about the appropriateness of your sources, it makes sense to ask your TA for advice *before* you incorporate information from those sources into a writing assignment.

9.17.14 hkl