We live in the Information Age. This means that there is more information available more quickly than ever before. This also means that a good deal of information available is unreliable. Academic resources are those that are validated as reliable in some way.

This would include:

- Books published by reputable academic publishers (universities; academic publishers)
- Academic journals (include citations and are peer reviewed)
- Internet publications that meet the above standards (usually .org, .edu and .gov sites)
- Primary sources: news reports, information about organizations, testimony
- Material which is published by an organization or individual being studied

This would NOT include:

- Almost all information in dot com websites
- Encyclopedias
- Digests
- Any work which does not have an author. (With no author, it cannot be used.)
- Any work published privately
- Any work published by a private organization with an ideological goal