

# The Information Cycle

An Event Occurs

Websites,  
Radio, TV,  
Blogs

Days After an Event

Newspapers

Weeks After an Event

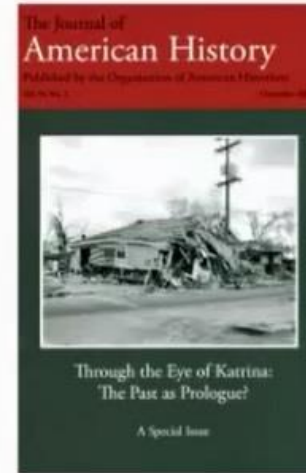
Magazines

Months or Years Later

Scholarly Journals

Years After an Event

Books



August 29,  
2005

September 2,  
2005

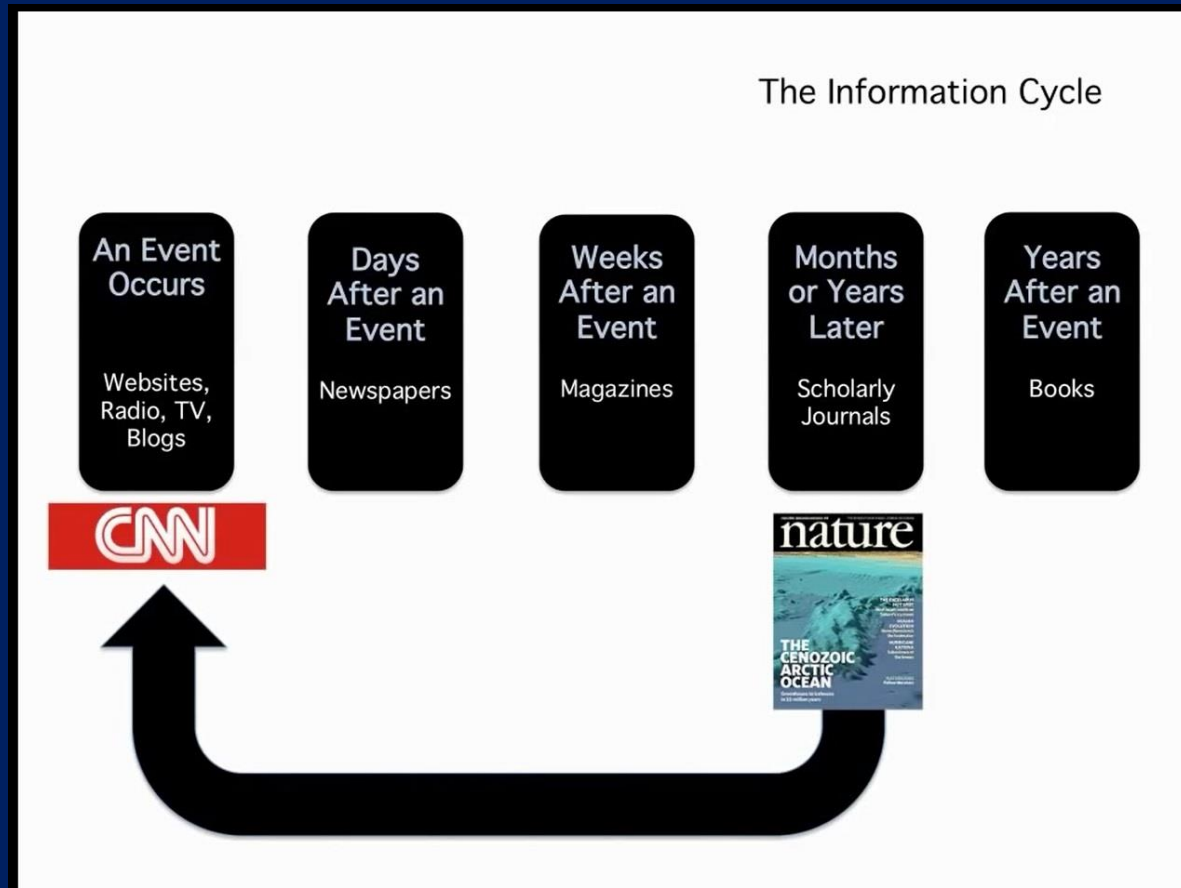
September 12,  
2005

December  
2007

2009

# The Information Cycle is Not Always Linear

- New scholarly findings can become popular news.



# Authority is Constructed and Contextual

Information Literacy Unit: University 101

# Who has authority in your life? Why?

- Write notes on your own (1 minute)
- Discuss with a partner (3 minutes)
- Class sharing

# Authority Defined:

- Webster's Dictionary: a quality that makes something seem true or real

# Authority Defined:

- Oxford English Dictionary (OED): A person whose opinion or testimony is accepted as true; the author of an accepted opinion or statement; a person with **extensive or specialized knowledge** *on* (also *upon*) a particular subject; an **expert**.

# Authority Defined:

- Oxford English Dictionary (OED):
  - A book, passage, etc., accepted as a source of **reliable** information or evidence, especially one used to settle a question or matter in dispute
  - The fact or state of possessing **credible** information



# Let's Discuss

- When you have a medical question, where do you go for answers?
- When you have a question about your new phone, where do you go for answers?
- When you have a question about finding information, where do you go for answers?

# Information Need

- Where you look depends on the question.
- All information serves a purpose.
- It is your job to match the purpose of the source to your information need.

# Information Need: Two Scenarios

“Academic” by Tim Ellis (accessed via Flickr)



“11501\_Pull-Back Racer” by Pintoy Welove  
(accessed via Flickr)

# Evaluating Information

- Author
- Audience
- Purpose
- Relevance
- Date

# Authority is Constructed:

- Peer-review
- Academic Disciplines



# Your Sources

Author

Audience

Purpose

Relevance

Date published

What would this be authoritative for

# Source Types

- Scholarly Journals
- Scholarly Books
- Non-Scholarly Periodicals
- Non-Scholarly Books
- Websites/Social Media
- Other (Government Documents, Data, Images, Photographs, Archival Documents)



# Conclusion

- Level of authority needed is dependent on your information need.
- Academic and non-academic needs.
- Select and evaluate sources based on specific information needs.
- Access to information is a privilege.