**Lecture # 6**

**SOURCES OF NEWS**

**WHAT IS SOURCE?**

In journalism, a source is a person, publication, record or a document that provides information. Source is also called a point from where something is derived or obtained. Point of origin of information is also called a source. A person or document that supplies information is also a source. Causes, creates, or initiates.

**NEWS SOURCES**

A reporter collects information from various sources. Information can be collected through observation or by interviewing a person. Information can be derived from, public documents, statistics, private diaries, letters, books , libraries, newspapers, magazines, internet, wastebaskets or microfilms.

**SOURCE**

Press Conferences.

President + Prime Minister’s Address to the Nation.

Briefing by various ministers

Press releases

Budget

Export policy announcements

Government / opposition reactions

Parliament

Radio monitoring

TV monitoring

Foreign office

Court decisions

Accidents

Religious activities

Terrorist activities/Terrorism

Celebrities

Jobs/ Employment

Industry

Associations

Sports

Books

Airports

Real estate

Immigrations

Sea

Roads

Travel

Universities

Antiquities

Friends

Family issues

Animals and pets

Shopping

Fashion

Farming

**WHAT IS NEWS AGENCIES OR WIRE SERVICE?**

A news agency is an organization of journalists established to supply news items to newspapers, magazines, radio and television broadcasters.News agencies are also known as wire services or news services. News agencies generally prepare hard news stories and feature articles .

**NEWS AGENCIES/ WIRE SERVICE**

* Four major news agencies of the world are Associated Press (AP), Reuters, AFP and United Press International (UPI).
* These News agencies (transmit news of local, regional, national and international significance).
* AP and Reuters news agencies also provide video service to the clients.
* Developments of the news agencies have a great impact on the process of foreign news selection and reporting. Colonial news agencies are still strong.
* Developing countries are influenced by the world’s leading wire services.
* They report the event form their own national and global interests.
* The main Chinese news agency is New China News Agency. Its Headquarters is in Beijing.
* Russian’s major news agency is TASS. This news agency is also named as ITAR – TASS.
* The official News agency of Iran is called PARAS.
* Organization of Islamic Countries news agency is IINA (Islamic International News agency) it was established by the OIC.
* Turkish news agency is ANADOLU AJANSI
* Indonesian news agency is called ANTARANEWS.
* Before is emergence of Pakistan in United India the first news agency was established in 1905.
* It was named as Associated Press of India.
* During first world war another news agency was formed with the name of Orient Press of India.
* First news agency of Pakistan was established with the name of Associated Press of Pakistan (APP)

**SOURCES IN NEWSROOM**

Newsroom itself is also an important source of news. There are number of reference books that are available in the newsroom which can be the important sources of news.

One of the hi-tech source of news is CQ Researcher (Congressional Quarterly researcher). It contains all quarterly information about the function and working of American congress. These types of sources are also available about Pakistan’s Parliament.World Almanac and world year book are also very valuable sources of news. Law dictionaries and legal encyclopedia can also be termed as sources of information. Digests of cases, Freedom of information act and State information act can also be good source of getting Newss

**Electronic Data base Sources**

News writing is generally a young person’s profession. If you have the ambition, drive, energy and willingness to pursue a story aggressively you can get it. Electronic data bases are the newest tools. Writers can use the database in their search for information.

A new breed of reporter getting out valuable information from electronic sources. Full text data bases. The actual text of records, articles or statements are displayed on the researcher’s screen.

Citation data

CD-ROM is a type of computer storage medium which reads optically by a laser beam. The data is accessed using reading machines connected directly to news writers’ computers.

To use CD-ROM, you need a CD-ROM player (a reader) compatible with your own computer.

Maps can be manipulated to enrich news stories and features.

CAR : Computer-assisted reporting (CAR) It can involve online research and database journalism. One can get employed to work from home.

**USING RECORDS**

Records are an important source of information. One can get the information by searching the following

records.

 Birth records

 Marriage

 Divorce

 Real estate

 Voter registration

 Auto records

 Traffic accident reports

 Income tax records

 Telephone records.

**ACCESS TO PUBLIC RECORDS**

Make a written request.

The request should identify the documents.

Do not state the reason why you want to inspect the documents.

Libraries not only contain resources for story research, they can also be the source of new ideas,

background information, and fact verification.

Glance through magazine articles.

Reference books and materials.

Glance through magazine articles.

Reference books and materials

**HOW TO GENERATE SOURCES**

 Read. Read widely.

 Patronize the Library

 Listen

 Identify records.

 Be friendly

 Subscribe

 Entertain opposites

 Develop expertise.

 To get good ideas, invest your time wisely, continue pursuing knowledge, and probe, search, and investigate with an open mind.

 Personal Sources

 Start your own phone directory

 Meet the heads of every agency in the community-and their secretaries.

 Invite one key official on lunch or diner each week/ monthly.

 Visit the scene.

 Visit religious groups.

 Send letters and cards

 Socialize with people.

**EVALUATING SOURCES**

Motives. Do they want something in return? try to find out what the source “wants”

Bias

Lack of responsibility

Misunderstanding

Time difference

Class. Status

Knowledgeability

Credibility

Fearlessness