This is a tutorial from the librarians at Lone Star College – North Harris. The purpose of this tutorial is to introduce library users to the concept of information.

Let’s start with a formal definition and then break it down. Information is knowledge communicated by others or obtained from investigation, study, or instruction.

Information comes in different types, such as facts, concepts, procedures, and principles.

A fact is a statement than can be proven true. For example, if I said “The walls are green”, I can prove that it is true.

A concept pulls together a number of specific facts and makes a general statement about them. For example, color is a concept.

A procedure is a set of tasks that achieves a certain result. For example, a set of instructions on how to jump-start a car is a procedure.

A principle is a generalization about a complex system. For example, the force of attraction between all physical objects in the universe is called the Law of Gravity. Or ethics is a way in which people can relate to each other morally.

Information also comes in different forms, such as sound, text, and images.

Sound-based information can come from music. Or it can come from spoken words.

Information may also come in the form of text, which is the writing of words. The words may be written by hand. They might appear on a computer screen. Or they might appear as bumps on a page read through the fingers, as one might find in a book written in Braille.

Some information may appear visually, such as a painting or a video recording.

Information not only comes in different types and forms, but from different sources. Some of the sources of information in your life might include teachers, books, television, or friends and family. The people who provide you with information may be experts or amateurs. The information that they provide might be true or false.

You receive information all of the time, whether when you’re talking with friends or studying a textbook. Because you want information that is accurate, it’s important to evaluate the information that you encounter. That’s what we’ll cover in a later video. For now, take this short quiz about the content provided in this video.