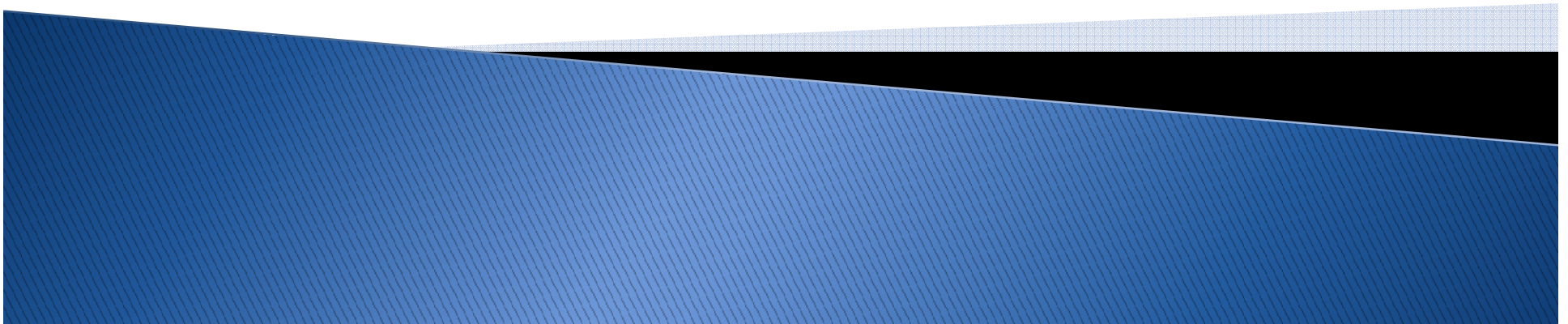


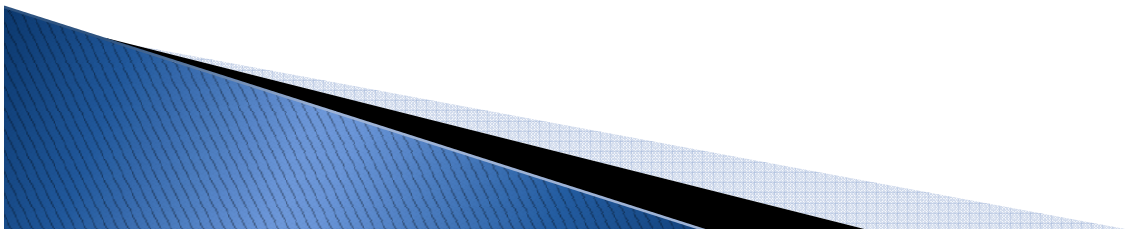
Primary and Secondary Sources

SPI 3002.4.2 Differentiate between primary and secondary sources.



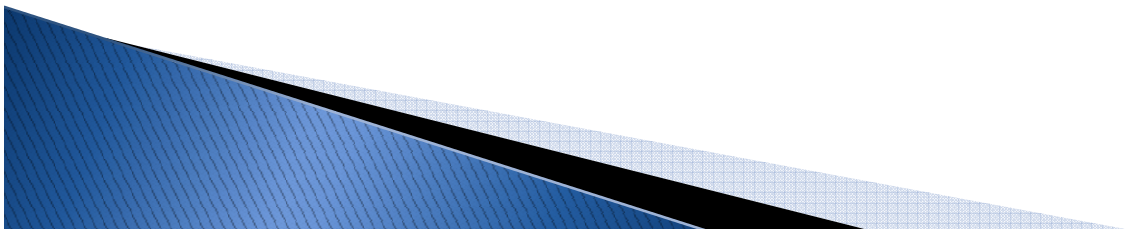
Primary Sources

- ▶ First-hand accounts of events the author has witnessed or experienced personally.
- ▶ Usually, the author never intended the primary source to be published.
 - Primary Sources include:
 - Diaries
 - Letters
 - Memoirs
 - Journals
 - Speeches
 - Interviews
 - Photographs



Secondary Sources

- ▶ At least one step removed from the primary source.
- ▶ Information found through research or investigation into an event the author has not personally experienced.
- ▶ Usually the author intended to publish the secondary source.
 - Secondary Sources include:
 - Journal Articles
 - Books (including text books)
 - Documentaries



How can I tell?

- ▶ Ask yourself some questions:
 - How does the author know these details?
 - Was the author present at the event or soon on the scene?
 - Where does this information come from—personal experience, eyewitness accounts, or reports written by others?
 - Are the author's conclusions based on a single piece of evidence, or have many sources been taken into account?

The questions on this slide were taken from the following source:
people.uwec.edu/tvaruzke/documents/Primary-Secondary.ppt

Try it out:

- ▶ Which of these would most likely be a secondary source of information for learning more about robotic engineering?
 - A. An interview with a member of a robotics engineering team
 - B. A journal written by a former robotics engineer
 - C. A magazine article about robotic engineering and competitions
 - D. An online article about robotic engineering published by a research company

