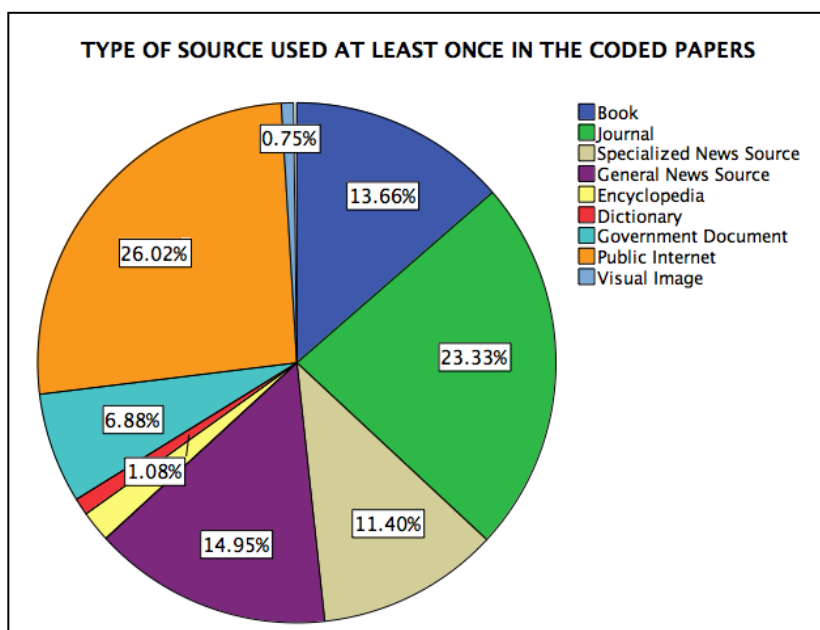


## Type of Source Selected and Cited by Students

TYPE OF SOURCE USED AT LEAST ONCE IN THE CODED PAPERS		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Book	127	13.6	13.7	13.7
	Journal	217	23.3	23.3	37.0
	Specialized News Source	106	11.4	11.4	48.4
	Government Document	64	6.9	6.9	55.3
	General News Source	139	14.9	14.9	70.2
	Visual Image	7	.8	.8	71.0
	Encyclopedia	18	1.9	1.9	72.9
	Dictionary	10	1.1	1.1	74.0
	Public Internet	242	26.0	26.0	100.0
Total		<b>930</b>	<b>100.0</b>		



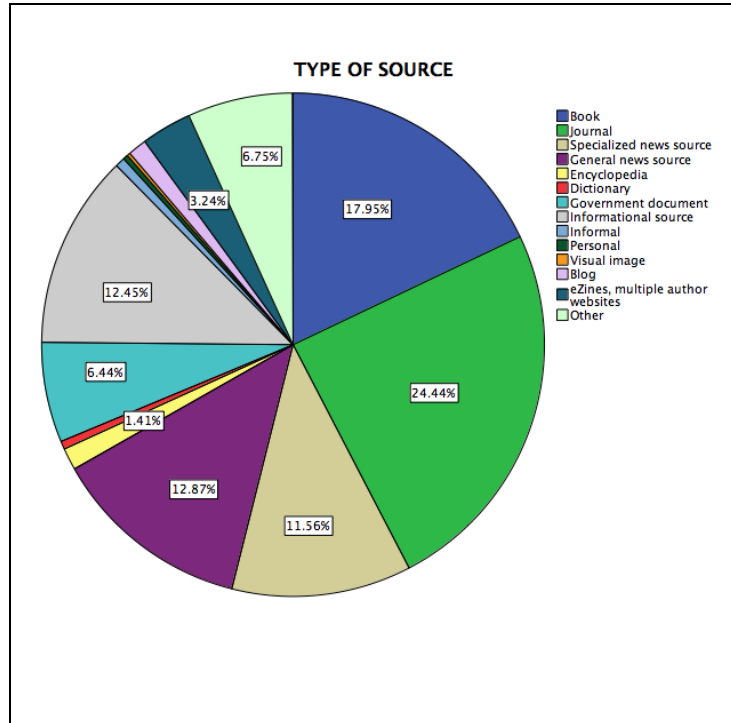
### SUMMARY OF DATA

- Of the 930 individual sources cited in the 174 papers coded, 14% (127) were books; 23% (217) were journal articles; 7% (64) were government documents.
- In the second most common category, 26% (245) were specialized or general news sources.
- A close third as a group is the 26% (242) sources found on the public Internet (mostly from websites). An additional 3% (28) came from encyclopedia and dictionaries.

## Type of Source and Frequency of Citation

The preceding data refers to the sources themselves. We also coded frequency of citation.

TYPE OF SOURCE USED IN THE CITATION		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Book (single author or anthology)	343	17.9	17.9	17.9
	Journal (accessed electronically or in print)	467	24.4	24.4	42.4
	Specialized news source or periodical (accessed electronically or in print)	221	11.6	11.6	54.0
	General news source (accessed electronically or in print)	246	12.9	12.9	66.8
	Encyclopedia (accessed electronically or in print)	27	1.4	1.4	68.2
	Dictionary (accessed electronically or in print)	10	.5	.5	68.8
	Government document or publication	123	6.4	6.4	75.2
	Informational source (brochures, handouts, informational websites)	238	12.4	12.5	87.7
	Informal print or oral sources (email, text messages, conversations, etc.)	12	.6	.6	88.3
	Personal (websites, Facebook, wiki, etc.)	6	.3	.3	88.6
	Visual images (still and moving)	4	.2	.2	88.8
	Blogs (personal, organizations, or professional)	23	1.2	1.2	90.0
	e-zines, special interest multiple-author websites (fan sites, hobby sites)	62	3.2	3.2	93.2
	Other Source (Internet sites that do not fit other classifications)	129	6.8	6.8	100.0
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,911</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	



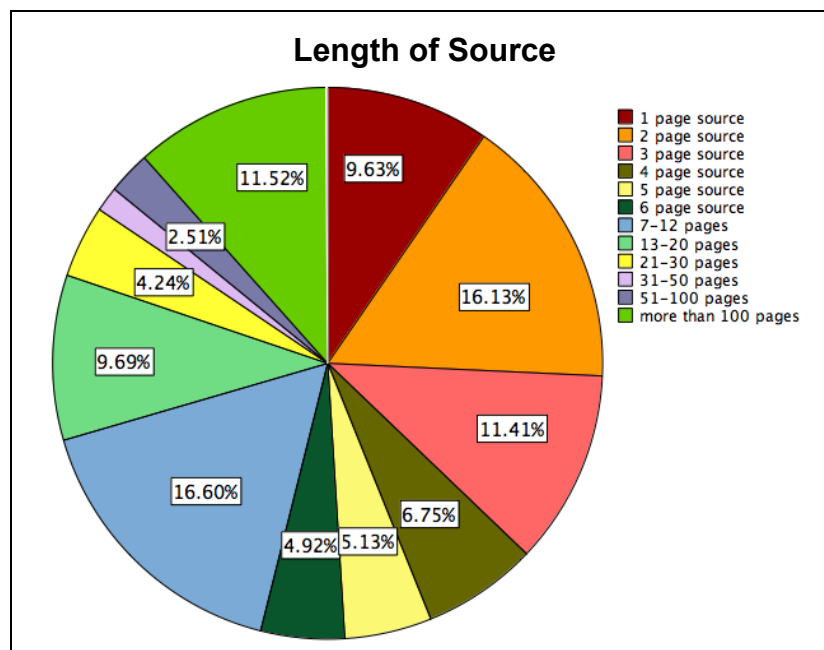
### COMMENTS ON THE DATA

- The major difference between these two sets of data is in the use of books: 14% of the sources are books, but 18% of the citations are to books, indicating that once selected, a book will tend to be cited more than once.
- On the other hand, 23% of the sources are journals and 24% of the citations are to material in journals. The books tended to score higher on the Flesch Reading Ease test (indicating greater ease of reading), whereas journal articles were difficult and less likely to be cited more than once, or beyond the first few pages.
- Another difference is that 15% of the sources are general news sources, but only 13% of the overall citations are to those sources, possibly because they tend to be very short (many less than one full page).

We will provide fuller analysis of this data and deeper correlations in future publications.

## Page Length of Sources Cited

Number of pages in source		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	1 page	184	9.6	9.6	9.6
	2 pages	308	16.1	16.1	25.8
	3 pages	218	11.4	11.4	37.2
	4 pages	129	6.7	6.8	43.9
	5 pages	98	5.1	5.1	49.1
	6 pages	94	4.9	4.9	54.0
	7 pages	317	16.6	16.6	70.6
	13-20 pages	185	9.7	9.7	80.3
	21-30 pages	81	4.2	4.2	84.5
	31-50 pages	28	1.5	1.5	86.0
	51-100 pages	48	2.5	2.5	88.5
	101 + pages	221	11.6	11.6	100.0
<b>Total</b>		<b>1911</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	

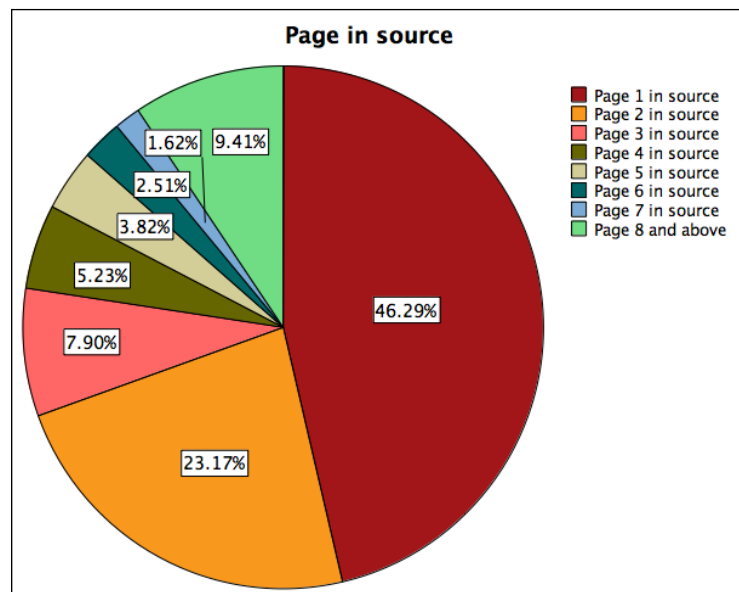


### COMMENTS ON THE DATA

Like the preceding data, this refers to frequency of citation. Of the 1911 citations, 9.6% were to sources of one page or less, 16% to sources of 2 pages, and 11% to sources of three pages. In all, 44% of all of the citations were to sources of 4 pages or less, and almost half (49%) were to sources of five pages or less. A full 71% of all of the citations were to sources with fewer than 7 pages. While 12% of the citations were to sources over 100 pages long, this includes anthologies of poetry, novels, and textbooks.

## Page in Source Cited in the Student Paper

Page in source		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Page 1	885	46.3	46.3	46.3
	Page 2	443	23.2	23.2	69.5
	Page 3	151	7.9	7.9	77.4
	Page 4	100	5.2	5.2	82.6
	Page 5	73	3.8	3.8	86.5
	Page 6	48	2.5	2.5	89.0
	Page 7	31	1.6	1.6	90.6
	8 +	180	9.4	9.4	100.0
<b>Total</b>		<b>1911</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	



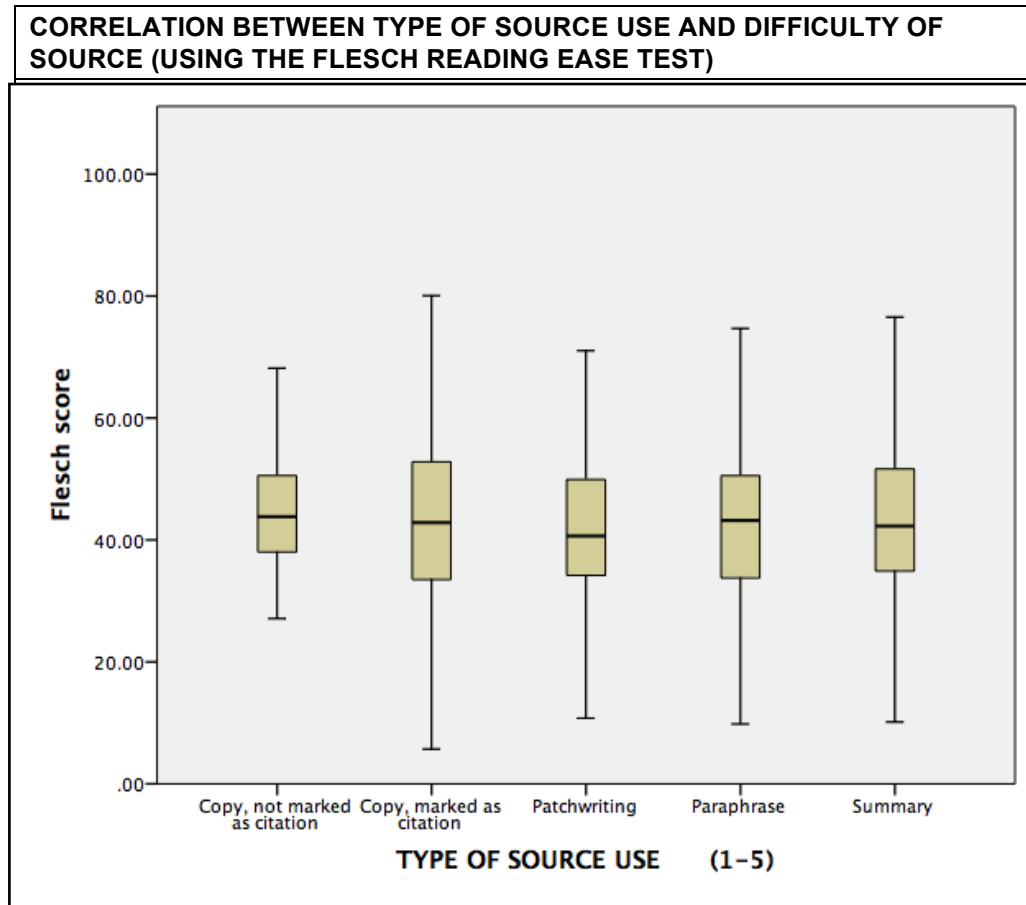
### COMMENTS ON THE DATA

Regardless of the length of the source from which the student cites, 46% (885) of all of the citations are to the first page of the source; an additional 23% (443) are to the second page. A total of 77% of all of the citations are to the first three pages of the source, regardless of whether the source is three pages or 400+ pages. While students are including longer sources in their works cited list, they are not citing from very far into those sources; only 9% (180) of the citations are to page 8 or beyond.

**This suggests that students are not engaging with texts in meaningful ways. While it does not prove that they are not reading the entire source, it would explain why we see so little summary.**

## Reading Ease and Type of Source Use

We expected to find a correlation between the type of source use and the location of that source use in the student paper; however, we did not find that correlation.



### ANSWERING OUR INITIAL QUESTIONS

- One of our initial questions was: Does the frequency of patchwriting increase with linguistically complex sources, suggesting that students patchwrite when they do not fully comprehend a text?

**Based on Flesch Reading Ease analysis, we did not see a significant difference between linguistic complexity of source and type of source use, although this needs further study (for example to see whether there is a correlation between reading ease and frequency of citation or page in source).**

We provide more analysis and answer more of our research questions in our book, *Struggling with Sources: The Citation Project Portrait of Composition Students' Researched Writing*, forthcoming with Parlor Press, 2013