Olsen, B. A. 2014. *Women in Mycenaean Greece: The Linear B tablets from Pylos and Knossos.* Oxon and New York: Routledge.

The focus of Olsen within this book is to try to understand the lives of the real women of the time rather than the mythological ones- something which she describes as a difficult task. She is specifically analysing the lives of the women in relation to the Linear B tablet as her main source of evidence. Olsen also explores the lives of women in a broader sense, with how their lives in the Bronze Age differed to those in the later Classical periods. Her main argument is that the two areas of Pylos and Knossos had great differences in the roles and structures created for the different genders, and she therefore concludes that gender was a location-specific issue. With that idea laid out, she goes on to argue that with the information she could gather, the main difference she found between the two states is property holdings, though many other differences were still evident. A single-authored text is very valuable in an academic sense because it provides a singular viewpoint upon a wider topic area than can be seen in other types of academic sources whilst still holding the specific nature of a singular topic- in this instance women within Mycenaean Greece. The singular topic allows a more in depth and focused argument, whilst the longer nature of the source type allows more aspects of the topic to be evaluated and explored. This is noted in the way in which Olsen structures her argument- with a specific chapter dedicated for each sub-topic and area.

Olsen, B. A. 1998. Women, Children and the Family in the Late Aegean Bronze Age: Differences in Minoan and Mycenaean Constructions of Gender. *World Archaeology* 29(3): 380-392.

Within this Journal Article, Olsen discusses and analyses the differences between the relationships of women and children within the Mycenaean and Minoan societies and how they are portrayed. She argues that although in both cultures, the primary caretakers of children did seem to be women, the way they are portrayed is different and in that, a difference in social roles for gender is revealed. Olsen's main argument is that Mycenaean society seems to heavily associate women and children together, whilst Minoan society shows no interest in promoting the idea of motherhood and childcare. Olsen also describes how many assumptions about the cultures are not evidenced in the primary sources of the time. Her main sources of evidence she uses are the Linear B script and artistic depictions and she reveals that the iconographic evidence is where the differences between the cultures can be found. As a source of academic knowledge, a journal article is valuable in its accuracy for the information known at the time of publication due to it being peer reviewed by other experts before publication. This particular journal is valuable also because it compares two cultures within the Aegean. This is useful because it allows a deeper understanding of the two places individually, whilst also clearly demonstrating that the Aegean is not just one homogeneous area. The article explains in detail a specific topic in a clearly formatted manner, and the points being made are done so in a way which is logical and easy to follow.

Rehak, P. 2002. Imag(in)ing a Women's World in Bronze Age Greece: The Frescoes from Xeste 3 at Akrotiri Thera, in Rabinowitz, N. S. and Auanger, L (ed.). *Among Women: From the Homosocial to the Homoerotic in the Ancient World.* 34-59. Austin: University of Texas Press.

This is a chapter from an edited volume which focuses on the Xeste 3 frescoes and how they relate to women in Bronze Age Greece. Rehak argues that although a lot of work has been done to understand the meaning behind the art, too little of the focus had been on how they relate to women and sexuality. He writes about how due to no literary texts on sexuality surviving and the

lack of intimacy seen within Aegean art, relations between people are hard to understand. The chapter then goes on to explore the frescoes in detail, whilst continuously relating back what he believes to be the main theme, which is how they depict the rites of passage within various stages of a woman's life. Rehak details how women were shown in very prominent positions within the works and how even when they were pictured in public locations like towns, men and women were depicted in segregated groups. As a source of academic knowledge, this is one which holds a good deal of value. This is because the text dives into great detail on a very specific subject which is very valuable- not only for the subject itself, but also to see how it compares to other areas. It is also valuable being an edited volume, because it as a whole would give various view and focus points surrounding a common theme. This therefore collects similar topic areas and binds them together, which from an academic standpoint is valuable because all of the information is collected together in one location.

Witcombe, C. L. C. E. 2000. Women in the Aegean: Minoan Snake Goddess. Art History Resources. Available From: http://arthistoryresources.net/snakegoddess/aegeanmatriliny.html [Accessed 7th April 2020]

This is a web resource which specifically focuses on matriliny and women in the Aegean Bronze Age. Witcombe argues that due to it being possible that women held a dominant position within the religious practices of the society, it could be argued that it is possible that they held similar positions in a legal and social sense. He does go on to say that due to the lack of documentation in a written sense, this would be impossible to verify, before going on to explain more circumstantial evidence from other societies within the Aegean which would help to support the claims being made. He also explores the fact that between the Bronze Age period and the time when Classical Greece began emerging, something changed for women's place in society. The website does have a clear and extensive bibliography in which to verify the information being portrayed but does not come from a clearly academically verified site such as a government or scholarly organisation. This therefore means that the extent of the value it holds in an academic sense is limited. However, Witcombe does have a number of published works, including journal articles which would be peer reviewed, which gives credence to the idea that he knows what he is talking about, and therefore adding more academic value than the site would otherwise hold. The free to access nature of the site also adds value in an academic sense as an easy source of information for a wide range of people.