Graduate-Level Research
Services, Resources, and Tips

In addition to information and links provided below, librarians at the Brown-Daniel Library are available to answer your questions or provide assistance with your research.

Researching an Advisor or Thesis Committee Member

Finding and Researching a Thesis/Dissertation Topic

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Researching Sources of Funding

Submitting a Thesis/Dissertation

Beyond Graduate School

Just Remember

Researching an Advisor or Thesis Committee Member

According to co-authors P. Paul Heppner and Mary J. Heppner, *Writing and Publishing Your Thesis, Dissertation & Research,* your advisor should be one who shares your research interests and has expertise in that particular area. An advisor who has expertise in your area of research can be beneficial in that the advisor can recommend seminal readings, methodologies and other strategies that would prove helpful in your research. In addition, when selecting committee members, Heppner and Heppner suggest that you work with your chair or advisor in determining the best group of faculty members who would meet your needs according to the research interests you have, and who would work well together on your committee.

To find an advisor's students:

- Search by advisor in *ProQuest Dissertations and Theses*

- Reading dissertations, especially their literature reviews and bibliographies can be helpful, as well.

In order to discover whether a potential advisor, such as the author of an article or book is actively pursuing quality scholarly research, and is involved in and respected by the research community:

- Use *Web of Science®* to investigate how much your potential advisor's work is cited and by whom. This database may be reached by going to the TSU Library Web Page and by clicking on *Search all Databases by Subject or title* .

- Read articles to find out what research they have published, in which journals, and how other researchers are using it.

Finding and Researching a Thesis/Dissertation Topic

In *Writing and Publishing Your Thesis, Dissertation & Research* Heppner and Heppner recommend that since ideas for potential topics are everywhere you "must keep an open and reflective mind in order to identify and develop topics". Other ideas they recommend to find and refine research topics are to:

- Read the professional literature.

- Talk to experts in the field.

- Testing theory.

- Examining applied experiences.

In addition to discussing ideas with your advisor and using strategies such as researching topics of interest and using important article databases in your field, and the *TSU Library Catalog,* other suggestions include:

- Read research articles, which may be isolated from other articles by using the "document type" field found in many article databases. Look at the "recommendations for future research" found in many research articles to locate possible topics.

- Use automatic alert features which are found in many article databases, which runs searches periodically on a timetable that you set up, and e-mails you the results.

- Explore article databases in disciplines other than your own. On occasion, research on your topic performed in another discipline may enhance your work.

- Read others' theses and dissertations especially the literature reviews and bibliographies to glean more ideas as to look in pursuing your research. In addition, reading dissertations and theses that others have written will help you in formatting your project.

In keeping up with your research, Heppner and Heppner suggest that you get and stay organized through your research and writing process:

- Start a reference list immediately. Doing so will prevent you from spending hours and hours looking for that wonderful quote.

- Set up a system organizing your papers, articles, references, and other resources that works for you. If at all possible, keep all your resources in one place.

- Set up clearly marked folders on your computer, along with labeling drafts of your documents so that the latest draft is easily identifiable.

- Always provide complete and accurate citations in your paper so that persons reading your research may locate the data contained in the citation quickly and easily. Failure to give credit for others' research constitutes *plagiarism.*

- Examples of style manuals in the Brown-Daniel Library Reference Department include:

  American Psychological Association. *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association.* 5th ed. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association. 2001. *Ref. BF76.7 .P83 2001*

  Gilbaldi, Joseph, ed. *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers.* 5th ed. New York: Modern Language Association. Modern Language Association of America. 1999. *Ref. LB2369 .G53 1999*

  Iverson, Cheryl, ed. *American Medical Association Manual of Style.* 9th ed. Baltimore: Williams & Wilkins. 1998. *Ref. R119 .A533 1998*

  Turabian, Kate L. *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations.* 7th ed. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press. 1996. (Based on the Chicago Manual of Style) *Ref. LB2369 .T8 2007*

- Several software products such *as ProCite, EndNote* or *Reference Manager* are available on the market which will help you format your citations according to the style you are using such as *MLA, APA, Turabian, Chicago Manual of Style,* etc. In addition, many article databases will format citations for you.

- Schedule a meeting with a librarian; a list of librarians in the Reference Department is available online.

In addition, you may locate articles by using the following links:

- **Search Databases:** Search all databases by *subject* or *title.*

- **Search Periodicals:** Search our *online and print* newspapers, magazines and journals.

Other Research Tips

- Search for books on your topic in the *TSU Library online catalog (Tigris)*

- Use subject heading links provided in the item record in *Tigris.*

- Use our *electronic order request form* to submit a recommendation for the library to buy a book to add to its holdings.

- Use reference pages located at the end of many journal articles to explore citations for other research articles you might use in your literature review.

- Use our *InterLibrary Loan* service *(ILLiad)* to obtain items that the Brown-Daniel Library doesn't own.

- Use the TSU Library's *Ask A Librarian* service. You may use the e-mail form provided when there is no librarian online, and someone will get back with you as soon as possible. You may also chat with a librarian online when one is on duty.

Researching Sources of Funding

Go to the TSU Library *online catalog,* and look up listings in reference books such as *The Annual Register of Grant Support, The Grants Register,* and *Directory of Research Grants,* and Heppner and Heppner's *Writing and Publishing Your Thesis, Dissertation & Research: A Guide for Students in the Helping Professions.*

General Applicant Information (*Financial Aid*)

Submitting a Thesis/Dissertation

Information on Required Training for Researchers Using Human Participants

IRB/Human Subjects Committee

Guidelines for the Preparation of Dissertations, Theses, Projects, and Course Papers

Steps in Completing Thesis & Dissertation

Electronic Theses and Dissertations Checklist

ETD Website

Beyond Graduate School

Career Center

E-Research at TSU

Chronicle of Higher Education

Just Remember

Librarians are at your service to help you with your information and research needs.

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