

Library Research Handbook: Review

Scholarly Research and Writing are closely linked and are an important part of higher education. Review the concepts covered in the Library Research Handbook.

THE SCHOLARLY RESEARCH CYCLE



1. Where do you want to go? Background

Scholars use research to learn. Scholars use research to build on the ideas of others and integrate their own ideas with those of other scholars. Knowing how scholarly information is produced, the variety of information sources available and the importance of copyright and academic honesty give you a strong foundation to be successful as a scholarly researcher. Scholars use research to join the scholarly conversation.

Resources Covered:

- [Scholarly Publishing Cycle](#)
- [Sources: What can you use for your research?](#)
- [Keep the Conversation Flowing](#)

2. Planning: Research Question and Topic

Having an idea of the scope and expectations for a research assignment will allow you to be a more efficient researcher. Then selecting a topic to match the scope and expectations are key steps to success on the road to research. Planning a realistic timeline is your best defense against procrastination.

Resources Covered:

- [Planning](#): Hear from Capella Learners explain how planning can save time in the scholarly research process.
- [Assignment Calculator](#)
- [Guide on Visual Searching](#) (PDF)

3. Finding Your Way: Searching and Sources

Finding the evidence you need to support your ideas and writings from the scholarly literature is at the heart of scholarly research. Effectively searching the Library databases and the Internet requires new skills and techniques. These skills include developing your search strategies (with keywords, Boolean operators, field searching, subject term searching, etc.), selecting a useful database or search engine, troubleshooting your search and more. Remember the Capella Librarians are available to answer your questions.

Resources Covered:

- [Searching and Sources](#): Listen to Capella learners talk about searching for scholarly materials.
- [Calling a Capella Librarian](#)
- [Sources: What can you use for your research?](#)
- [Databases A-Z](#)
- [Finding Web sites](#) (PDF)
- [Ask a Librarian](#)

4. What did you find? Evaluating

With so much information available it is important to critically evaluate your sources for credibility, relevance, timeliness and more before using them for your assignment. Reading your sources requires engaging with the content, responding to the authors' ideas and carefully gathering evidence to incorporate into your own writing. Identifying the seminal authors and theories in your discipline is important in both your academic and professional life. It is also helpful to use tools to organize the sources you find throughout your course and program. These are all essential parts of the scholarly research process.

Resources Covered:

- [Evaluating](#): Listen to learners talk about the role evaluation plays in the research process.
- [Database Research Log](#)
- [Scholarly Research Log](#)
- [Critically Reading of Primary and Secondary Sources](#) from the [Writing Handbook](#)
- [Reading Chart](#)
- [Strategies for Writing for Secondary Sources](#)
- [View the Anatomy of a Scholarly Article](#)

5. Putting it all together: Writing and Citing

Using the sources, along with your own thoughts and experiences to join the scholarly conversation is the ultimate goal. Doing this in an ethical manner is a requirement to be part of the scholarly community. Using quotes, paraphrases and summarizes are methods to incorporate evidence with your own ideas. Using a citation style such as APA is part of the conventions of scholarly writing. There are tools available to help with citing but a working knowledge of APA is part of being a scholar and assists in avoiding plagiarism.

Resources Covered:

- [Online Writing Center](#)
- [Writing Handbook](#)
- [Clustering](#) (PDF)
- [Idea Trees](#) (PDF)
- [Mapping](#) (PDF)
- [Outline](#) (PDF)
- [APA Style and Formatting Guide](#)
- [What's Behind APA Guidelines?](#) (PDF)
- [APA FAQ](#) (PDF)
- [SMARTHINKING](#) (Academic Tutoring)
- [Academic Honesty: Writing Responsibly: Giving proper credit to your sources](#)
- [Plagiarism](#)
- [Academic Integrity and Plagiarism](#)

6. Reflection: Where do you want to go next?

Reflecting on your research and writing process will allow you identify gaps and build your skills. Reflection also helps the scholarly research process become easier, more efficient and helps you reach greater depth with your research.

Resources Covered:

- [Library Guides & Tutorials](#) or [Ask a Librarian for one-on-one help.](#)
- [Online Writing Center](#)
- [Writing Handbook](#)
- [Writing Handouts/Modules](#)
- [APA Style & Formatting](#)
- [Academic Success Center](#)
- [SMARTTHINKING](#) (Academic Tutoring)