

# Library Research: Strategy, Guides, and Writing Aids

This outline of a research strategy is intended as a general guide, to help you find what you need with greater efficiency. It can be varied depending on specific needs, but remember to consider these basic steps. Useful architecture reference sources are listed at: <http://www.lib.utexas.edu/apl/researchstrategy.html#sources>

1. Select your **TOPIC**; limit it to a manageable scope. If your topic is too broad, you will retrieve more information than you can manage. If you find little information, your focus may be too narrow.
2. Consult **GUIDES** to the literature and to research (note suggested list below). These assist with research methodology and list standard reference sources.
3. Consult **ENCYCLOPEDIAS** (general or subject-specific) for an overview of your subject, time period, place, or technology. Note key words, names, or subject terms that can be used in your search. Look for bibliographies accompanying articles: they will lead you to additional sources of information.
4. Use **DICTIONARIES** (especially discipline-specific) for unknown or obscure terminology. Many include illustrations. Note related terms to use in your search.
5. Look for published **BIBLIOGRAPHIES** gathered by previous researchers. If one is available, concentrate your search on newer sources. If there are no specialized bibliographies on your topic, check the indexes or table of contents of more general subject bibliographies as well as the bibliographies in recent books. Catalogs of special collections or special libraries can serve as specialized bibliographies.
6. Consult **BIOGRAPHICAL SOURCES** (biographical dictionaries or directories) for information on names discovered in your search. Specialized materials concentrate on biographies of individuals according to gender, geographic area, ethnic background, occupation, etc. Some sources have excellent bibliographies and lists of a person's works. Consider contacting current practitioners to request information.
7. Search for books, periodical articles, and illustrations.
  - A. **PERIODICALS** generally provide more up-to-date and detailed information than books. Use keywords found in the steps above to search periodical and newspaper indexes for relevant citations. Once you have identified a list of articles, search their periodical (or source) titles in the library catalog (not the article titles) to determine availability online or in UT libraries. *The Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals* and *Art Abstracts* are recommended for most architecture, interior design, or urban design topics. Check the list of *Databases & Indexes to Articles on UT Library Online* (<http://www.lib.utexas.edu/indexes/>) for lists of additional indexes or full-text sources.
  - B. **BOOKS--AUTHOR/TITLE**. Using the author, designer, or title citations you found through the steps above, search *The library catalog* to determine the availability and location of books on campus.
  - C. **BOOKS AND PERIODICALS--SUBJECT SEARCHING**. Although you may use keywords to search the library catalog, you must use Library of Congress subject headings for thorough subject searches.

Consult the *Library of Congress Subject Heading List* to determine the proper subject heading(s) for your topic. Note references to broader, narrower, and related terms.

**D. ILLUSTRATIONS.** Consult illustration indexes, illustrated dictionaries, periodical indexes, and pictorial works to locate plans, elevations, sections, views, and other illustrations of major monuments.

**8. FOOTNOTES AND BIBLIOGRAPHIES.** For additional sources, remember to check the footnotes and bibliographies of the books and articles that you found most useful.

**9.** After locating periodical articles and books, you are ready to consider additional sources to supplement and help you evaluate your data.

A. **REVIEWS** help evaluate material. Search periodical indexes to locate book reviews.

B. Consider consulting **NON-PRINT SOURCES** such as **SLIDES, VIDEOS, INTERNET RESOURCES (WORLD WIDE WEB SITES), ORAL HISTORIES, ARCHIVAL MATERIALS, or PERSONAL INTERVIEWS**, to name a few.

C. **DATABASES** often facilitate searching for **CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS, STATISTICS, PATENTS, CENSUS DATA**, or the full-text of **NEWSPAPERS**. Check *UT Library Online* for links to databases.

D. **ORGANIZATIONS** and **ASSOCIATIONS** often publish professional literature, keep archives, or maintain reference files that can be consulted.

E. Other **LIBRARY CATALOGS** or ‘union catalogs’ such as *OCLC WorldCat* and *RLIN (RLG Union Catalog)* can assist in discovering sources not available at UT that can be borrowed through interlibrary loan.

**10.** For additional guidance, refer to one of the following recommended research guides and writing aids, or check with a reference librarian.

Andranovich, Gregory D. *Doing Urban Research*. Newbury Park: Sage, 1993.  
*HT 110 A56 1993 PAL*

Balian, Edward S. *The Graduate Research Guidebook: a Practical Approach to Doctoral/Masters Research*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Lanham, MD: University Press of America, 1994.  
*LB 2369 B24 1994 ARCH Ref., PCL*

Barnet, Sylvan. *A Short Guide to Writing about Art*. 7<sup>th</sup> ed. New York: Longman, 2003.  
*5<sup>th</sup> ed.: N 7476 B37 1997 ARCH Ref., ARCH Reserve, FAL, FAL Dict. 6<sup>th</sup> ed.: N 7476 B37 2000 FAL Dict.*

Bechtel, Robert B., et. al. *Methods in Environmental and Behavioral Research*.  
Reprint ed.: Malabar, FL: Krieger, 1990.  
*BF 353 M48 1990 ARCH Ref.*  
*Orig. ed.: New York: Van Nostrand Reinhold, 1987. BF 353 M48 1987 PCL*

Booth, Wayne C. *The Craft of Research*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Chicago: Univ. of Chicago Press, 2003.  
*Q 180.55 M4 B66 2003 PCL Res., Benson. 1<sup>st</sup> ed.: Q 180.55 M4 B66 1995 ARCH Ref., PCL, FAL, FAL Dict., FAL Ready Ref., PAL Res.*

Campbell, William Giles. *Form and Style: Theses, Reports, Term Papers*. 8<sup>th</sup> ed.  
Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1990.  
*LB 2369 C3 1990 ARCH Ref., PCL Ref.*

- Chappell, David. *Report Writing for Architects and Project Managers*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Cambridge, MA: Blackwell Science: 1996.  
NA 2540 C48 1996 ARCH Ref.
- Chicago Manual of Style*. 14<sup>th</sup> ed. Chicago, University of Chicago Press, 1993.  
Z 253 U69 1993 ARCH Ref. PCL Ref., FAL, PAL Res., FAC Ref., PMA Ref., LifeSci. Ref., BENSON Ref.
- Clark, Suzanne. *Cartographic Citations: a Style Guide*. Chicago: Map and Geography Round Table, American Library Association, 1992.  
GA 108.7 C55 1992 PCL Map Coll.
- Critical Terms for Art History*, edited by Robert S. Nelson and Richard Shiff. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Chicago: Univ. of Chicago Press, 2003.  
N 34 C75 2003 FAL Res. 1<sup>st</sup> ed.: N 34 C74 1996 ARCH, FAL
- Fellows, Richard. *Research Methods for Construction*. Oxford: Blackwell Science, 1997.  
TH 213.5 F45 1997 ARCH
- Frankfort-Nachmias, Chava. *Research Methods in the Social Sciences*. 5<sup>th</sup> ed. NY: St. Martin's, 1996.  
H 61 N251 1996 ARCH Ref.
- Gibaldi, Joseph. *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*. 6<sup>th</sup> ed. NY: Modern Language Association, 2003.  
LB 2369 G53 2003 FAC Ref. UNCAT PCL Ref. Ltd. 4<sup>th</sup> ed.: LB 2369 G53 1995 ARCH Ref., PCL, FAL Dict., CLAS Ref. 5<sup>th</sup> ed.: LB 2369 G53 1999 PCL Ref., PCL, FAC Ref.
- Goldman, Bernard. *Reading and Writing in the Arts: a Handbook*. Rev. ed. Detroit, Wayne State Univ. Press, 1978.  
NX 620 G6 1978 ARCH Ref., FAL Ref.
- Jones, Lois Swan. *Art Information and the Internet: How to Find it, How to Use it*. Phoenix: Oryx Press, 1999.  
N 59 J66 1998 ARCH Ref., FAL Ready Ref., FAL
- Jones, Lois Swan. *Art Information: Research Methods and Resources*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Dubuque, Iowa: Kendall/Hunt 1990.  
N 85 J64 1990 ARCH Ref., FAL, FAL Ready Ref.
- Kleinbauer, W. Eugene. *Research Guide to the History of Western Art*. Chicago: American Library Association, 1982.  
N 380 K56 1982 PCL, FAL Ref.
- Kliment, Stephen A. *Writing for Design Professionals: a Guide to Writing Successful Proposals, Letter, Brochures, Portfolios, Reports, Presentations, and Job Applications for Architects, Engineers, and Interior Designers*. New York : W.W. Norton, 1998.  
NA 1996 K57 1998 ARCH Ref.
- Li, Xia. *Electronic Styles: a Handbook for Citing Electronic Information*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Medford:Information Today, 1996.  
PN 171 F56 L5 1996 ARCH Ref., PCL, PCL Ref., GEOL,GEOL Ref., LifeSci Ref., PAL Ref., PMA Ref.
- Martinez-Pons, Manuel. *Research in the Social Sciences and Education: Principles and Process*. Lanham, Md. University Press of America, 1996.  
H 62 M2844 1996 ARCH Ref., PCL
- Miller, Delbert C. *Handbook of Research Design and Social Measurement*. 6<sup>th</sup> ed. Thousand Oaks: Sage, 2002.  
H 62 M44 2002 PCL. 5<sup>th</sup> ed.: H 62 M44 1991 ARCH Ref., PCL

- Parsons, A.J. *How To Do Your Dissertation in Geography and Related Disciplines*. New York: Chapman & Hall, 1995.  
LB 2369 P36 1995 ARCH Ref., PCL
- Preece, R. A. *Starting Research: an Introduction to Academic Research and Dissertation Writing*. London: Pinter, 1994.  
LB 2369 P69 1994 ARCH Ref., PCL
- Preservation Yellow Pages: the Complete Information Source for Homeowners, Communities, and Professionals* / National Trust for Historic Preservation. Rev. ed. New York: Wiley, 1997.  
E 159 P73 1997 ARCH Ref.
- Publication Manual for the American Psychological Association*. 5<sup>th</sup> ed. Washington, D.C.: American Psychological Assoc., 2001.  
BF 76.7 P82 2001 PCL Ref. PCL, FAC Ref. 4<sup>th</sup> ed.: BF 76.7 P82 1994 ARCH Ref., PCL, PCL Ref., PCL Res., PAL Ref., FAL Dict.
- Sayre, Henry M. *Writing About Art*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Englewood Cliffs, N. J.: Prentice-Hall, 1995.  
N 7476 S29 1995 ARCH Ref., ARCH Res., FAL Res., FAL
- Snyder, James C. *Architectural Research*. NY: Van Nostrand Reinhold, 1984.  
NA 2000 A69 1984 ARCH
- Turabian, Kate L. *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. 6th ed. Chicago, Univ. of Chicago Press, 1996.  
LB 2369 T8 1996 ARCH Ref., PCL Ref., FAL, FAL Dict., Benson Ref., FAC Ref., ENGIN, GEOL Ref., PAL Ref., LifeSci Ref.
- Walker, Janice R. *The Columbia Guide to Online Style*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1998.  
PN 171 F56 W35 1998 ARCH Ref., PCL Ref., ENGIN Ref.
- Wehrli, Robert. *Environmental Design Research: How To Do it and How To Apply It*. NY: Wiley, 1986.  
TA 170 W44 1986 ARCH Ref., ENGIN
- Weyl, J. *Spec Writer's Handbook: a Textbook & Reference Book for Writing Architectural Specifications*. Glendale, CA: Pacific Odyssey, 1989.  
TH 425 W49 1989 ARCH
- Willis, Christopher J. *Specification Writing for Architects and Surveyors*. 10<sup>th</sup> ed. Oxford: BSP Professional, 1991.  
TH 425 W58 1991 ARCH

---

*Need help with research? Please consult a librarian.*

Architecture Librarian Janine Henri can be reached via e-mail: [jhenri@mail.utexas.edu](mailto:jhenri@mail.utexas.edu), or by phone: (512) 495-4623.

For more information about the Architecture and Planning Library, visit: <http://www.lib.utexas.edu/apl/>

*Prepared by Janine Henri, August 2003. Revised August 2005 by Char Booth.*