

Research Texts

The Curious Researcher by Bruce Ballenger. Longman. 978-0-205-74526-5. A warm invitation to research, this book looks at research in a broad way (beyond aspects of “the research paper”). It breaks research down into a five week process, but need not be used in the order it’s written. A great book for research exercises and activities and for debunking research myths. Enjoyable to read and use. Includes documenting in MLA and APA styles.

Research Matters by Rebecca Moore Howard and Amy Rupiper Taggart. McGraw-Hill. 978-0-07-338374-3. This is a book that takes the idea of “owning your research” as its foundation. It’s more of a standard “handbook” than the Ballenger text, but quite approachable and comfortable for students to use. This text highlights the idea of responsibility in writing repeatedly, and could be a good fit if you want to take a broad look at academic honesty. Includes documenting in MLA, APA, Chicago and CSE styles.

The Bedford Researcher by Mike Palmquist. Bedford/St. Martin’s. 978-0-312-66775-7. This book “is based on the premise that the decisions good research writers make are shaped primarily by rhetorical concerns” (viii). It is set up in a question/answer format that addresses students directly about all questions they might have about a research project, from narrowing a topic and finding a research question to designing the document. Includes documenting in MLA, APA, Chicago and CSE styles.

Research and Writing: A Portable Guide by Marcia F. Muth. Bedford/St. Martin’s. 978-0-312-60756-2. This compact research text starts by prompting students to think about their “research quest” by “contributing to the conversation” and “finding a reason for research.” In this way, it allows students to think critically about the context in which research is done, and to investigate their own purposes for writing. Includes documenting in MLA, APA, Chicago and CSE styles.

Research and Documentation in the Electronic Age by Diana Hacker and Barbara Fister. Bedford/St. Martin’s. 978-0-312-56672-2. This very compact text is focused almost completely on conducting electronic research. It is meant as a supplement to another handbook. The book covers electronic (mainly library database) research in various disciplines. Includes documenting in MLA, APA, Chicago and CSE styles.

The Wadsworth Guide to Research by Susan K. Miller-Cochran and Rochelle L. Rodrigo. Wadsworth-Cengage. 978-1-111-34550-1. This text explores all the steps of the writing/research process, and focuses heavily on “rhetorical aspects of writing, reading, and research.” It asks students to review research and to share their research. It also offers a look at conducting primary research. Includes documenting in MLA, APA, Chicago and CSE styles.

Research Papers by William Cole and Joe Law. Wadsworth-Cengage. 978-1-4282-9034-1. This is a straightforward text that looks at research in a more limited way than *The Wadsworth Guide*. It focuses on the research process and the writing of the research paper, covering aspects of conducting research and writing itself. It tends not to step outside of the paper to think of research in a broader sense. Includes documenting in MLA and APA styles.

Research Strategies for a Digital Age by Bonnie L. Tensen. Wadsworth-Cengage. 978-1-4282-6330-7. “If you put garbage in a computer, nothing comes out but garbage. But this garbage, having passed through a very expensive machine, is somehow ennobled, and none dare criticize it” (71). This text focuses on digital research rather than research in general. It asks students to become “research supersleuths” and to ask questions, and Tensen is clear that these questions must include evaluations of internet research. She looks at the difference between library databases and the WWW. Includes documenting in MLA, APA, Chicago and CSE styles.

Writing from Sources by Brenda Spatt. Bedford/St. Martin’s. 978-0-312-54386-0. This well developed text focuses on source use; looking at both primary and secondary sources, it asks students to think critically about the sources themselves, and how to use the sources in a paper. Includes many sources that you can use in the classroom, “from newspaper articles to scholarly works” (v). Looks at summarizing, paraphrasing, and quoting sources, writing a single source essay and a multiple source essay, and evaluating and acknowledging sources. Includes documenting in MLA and APA styles.