

# Research Matters

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# Main sections

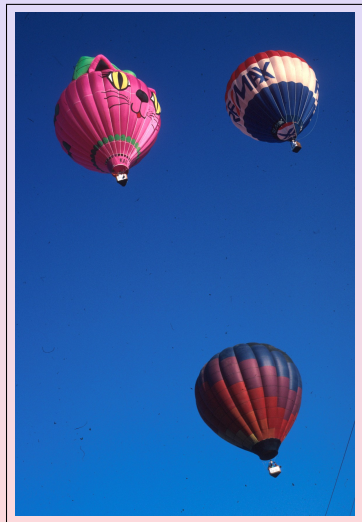
- Preparation (Chapters 1–5)
- Information (Chapters 6–12)
- Organization (Chapters 13–14)
- Writing (Chapters 15–19)
- Documentation (Chapters 20–24)

# Getting started

- Explore and decide how you'll keep track of your work:
  - Evernote
  - Oonenote
  - a folder structure on Dropbox/Y-drive/other
- Learn available tools
  - the web
  - Google scholar
  - Your library



# Picking a topic



- Start with what interests you
- Try a mindmap or other means of generating ideas
- When you bump into a roadblock—*That's great!*
- What are you curious about?

# The research proposal

- Start with *Why*?
- What is already known going into the research? (annotated bibliography)
- What question do you plan to answer or hypothesis to test? (thesis statement)
- How do you plan to proceed? (methods)
- Why is your work significant? (expected significance)
- How much will it cost? (budget—only for a real-world proposal)

# Getting information: Your librarian



Kate Kitchens

# The annotated bibliography

“An annotated bibliography is a list of citations to books, articles, and documents. Each citation is followed by a brief (usually about 150 words) descriptive and evaluative paragraph, the annotation. The purpose of the annotation is to inform the reader of the relevance, accuracy, and quality of the sources cited.”

<https://guides.library.cornell.edu/annotatedbibliography>

# Standard science structure

- Introduction—background and thesis
- Methods—how you did it
- Results—what you found
- Discussion—why it's significant
- References

*Note the similarity to the Proposal*



# Writing the First Draft

“Almost all good writing begins with terrible first efforts. You need to start somewhere. Start by getting something—anything—down on paper. What I’ve learned to do when I sit down to work on a shitty first draft is to quiet the voices in my head.”

from *Bird by Bird* by Anne Lamotte

# Revising

The only kind  
of writing  
is  
rewriting.

—Ernest Hemingway

