

# GTU Library Guide to Research Paper Writing

## So I have a topic in mind...now what?

- 1) Check out the subject reference guides at the Reference Desk or online at <http://www.gtu.edu/library/students/subject-bibliographies>
- 2) Check GRACE/ATLA/JSTOR by keyword search to check for relevant articles or books. Also look for relevant subject headings in individual records. If you need tips on searching, feel free to ask the Reference Desk.
- 3) Many times if you begin with a good book or relevant Encyclopedia entry, you can use the bibliography to point you in the right direction toward finding focused resources.

## I've done the research and need to start writing the paper, how do I begin?

One place to start is with the actual style guide you are using, usually **Turabian, Kate L. *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. 7th rev. ed. Edited by Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, and Joseph H. Williams. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007.**

Actually reading the guide's first several chapters will give you an excellent reference to go from.

**In addition, these are useful links for writing papers in general:**

<http://www.dartmouth.edu/~writing/materials/student/index.html>  
<http://library.utm.utoronto.ca/write>

**This is an excellent guide to writing religious research papers:**

[http://isites.harvard.edu/fs/docs/icb.topic649702.files/Religious\\_Studies.pdf](http://isites.harvard.edu/fs/docs/icb.topic649702.files/Religious_Studies.pdf)

## What is an annotated bibliography and how do I start writing one?

An annotated bibliography is a bibliography that also includes a brief summary and evaluation of each source. Here are links to help you get started on writing one:

<http://olinuris.library.cornell.edu/ref/research/skill28.htm>

[http://www.library.mun.ca/guides/howto/annotated\\_bibl.php](http://www.library.mun.ca/guides/howto/annotated_bibl.php)

## What is an abstract and how do I write one?

An abstract is a short summary of your completed research. It should include your starting question, your methods of research, your results, and your conclusions drawn. Here are links to help you start:

<http://writingcenter.unc.edu/handouts/abstracts/>

[http://writing.wisc.edu/Handbook/presentations\\_abstracts.html](http://writing.wisc.edu/Handbook/presentations_abstracts.html)

## What is 'peer reviewed' and why is it important? How do I find a peer reviewed or refereed articles?

Peer reviewed articles are evaluated by scholars in the same field. This enhances the credibility and quality of the writing. These sites and graphic representations explain the process and importance of peer reviewed (also called 'refereed') scholarly articles:

<http://www.pcc.edu/library/sites/default/files/peer-review.pdf>

[http://satyanspublications.weebly.com/uploads/4/7/0/4/4704169/1754658\\_orig.png](http://satyanspublications.weebly.com/uploads/4/7/0/4/4704169/1754658_orig.png)

<https://knowledgecenter.unr.edu/help/using/peer.aspx>

## What if I have a question not answered here?

First, check out the workshops offered every semester at the GTU Library. These workshops are a great place to learn about research and ask questions.

Then, check out the UC Berkeley Writing Labs. They have a handy reference sheet here:

<http://slc.berkeley.edu/writing/links.htm> and offer open writing labs that GTU students can participate in. Online, check out the Purdue OWL writing lab at <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/>

Finally, if you have read all of the material offered through the links above and still have questions, feel free to stop by the Library Reference Desk, Monday through Friday between 10am-4pm, or e-mail us through the 'Ask a Librarian' link on the website or at [libref@gtu.edu](mailto:libref@gtu.edu)

## Additional Resources:

### Bibliography/Citation Generators

[www.eturabian.com/](http://www.eturabian.com/) ← This one is online and can be accessed from anywhere

[www.zotero.org/](http://www.zotero.org/) ← This one is a downloadable free program

<http://citationmachine.net/index2.php> ← citation options in multiple formats

<http://www.mendeley.com/> ← Downloadable iPhone App