Books on Research & Writing in the PTS Library

Starting the theological research and writing process:


5th Edition – In this fifth edition of Research Strategies, author (and theological librarian) William Badke helps you make sense of all of the available information, shows you how to navigate and discern it, and details how to use it to your advantage to become a better researcher. Badke focuses on informational research and provides a host of tips and advice not only for conducting research, but also for everything from finding a topic to writing an outline to documenting resources and polishing the final draft.


An indispensable guide for undergraduate, graduate, or seminary students, this book provides valuable insight into the best reference tools available for Bible research. Not only do the authors provide general information on atlases, concordances, lexicons, dictionaries, and the like, but they also evaluate their usefulness. Titles reviewed range from theologically conservative to theologically liberal in their orientation.


"This concise introductory work explores the essentials of doing theological research and writing. It is a handy companion to assist persons as they begin and pursue theological education. It provides an overview of expectations that both various professors have shared and students have reported over many years as basic wisdom to foster quality theological work. It is a time-tested resource to guide those called to seminary study."


This updated reference guide directs students to over 500 significant theological resources across a wide area of theological research. It details bibliographic sources for encyclopedias, dictionaries, and electronic resources in biblical studies, historical studies, theology, and practical theology.

Core, Deborah. The Seminary Student Writes. St. Louis, Mo.: Chalice Press, 2000. 808.06623 C797s

Deborah Core offers practical guidance for beginning seminary students who feel overwhelmed and under prepared to write the number and quality of papers their courses require. The book begins with reflections on writing as a sacred action, then addresses such practical matters as choosing and researching a topic; outlining, drafting, and polishing a paper; and using the proper format for footnotes and bibliography. Also included are sample papers in MLA and Chicago styles and an overview of grammar and usage.


"They Say / I Say" shows that writing well means mastering some key rhetorical moves, the most important of which involves summarizing what others have said ("they say") to set up one's own argument ("I say"). In addition to explaining the basic moves, this book provides writing templates that show students explicitly how to make these moves in their own writing.


An indispensable guide for all students of religious studies. It offers up-to-date, detailed information on writing essays and short assignments, doing comparative research, evaluating Internet sources, proper documentation, avoiding plagiarism, reading religious texts, learning foreign languages, and giving oral presentations.

“This indispensable resource reviews the basics necessary for good scholarly religion writing, including how to correctly cite texts from various traditions; how to refer to people and rituals properly; and what common grammar, punctuation, and usage errors to avoid. Appendices provide listings of additional resources as well as a useful paper-writing checklist for students.”


A classic work which is intended for use in English courses in which the practice of composition is combined with the study of literature. It aims to give in brief space the principal requirements of plain English style.


**Doing more in-depth research and writing:**


Since 1995, more than 150,000 students and researchers have turned to *The Craft of Research* for clear and helpful guidance on how to conduct research and report it effectively. Now, master teachers Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, and Joseph M. Williams present a completely revised and updated version of their classic handbook.


This much-needed and recently updated resource takes theology students from start to finish in writing a quality term paper, thesis, or dissertation. Step by step, here is the guidance you need to:

Select a topic and narrow it down to a workable area of research; effectively use library and computer resources, write clear, relevant notes; organize your thoughts, and format the paper, including footnotes and bibliography.


“In its creative integration of the disciplines of writing, rhetoric, and theology, "Writing Theology Well" provides a standard text for theological educators engaged in the teaching and mentoring of writing across the theological curriculum. As a theological rhetoric, it will also encourage excellence in theological writing in the public domain by helping to equip students for their wider vocations as writers, preachers, and communicators in a variety of ministerial and professional contexts. “ (description from amazon.com)


*The Clockwork Muse* rethinks the writing process in terms of time and organization. It offers writers a simple yet comprehensive framework that considers such variables as when to write, for how long, and how often, while keeping a sense of momentum throughout the entire project. It shows how to set priorities, balance ideals against constraints, and find the ideal time to write.
Guides for researching and writing theses and dissertations:


