Approaching Research in International and Transcultural Studies

This workshop is not designed to provide actual instruction on how to conduct and process research. There are simply too many approaches for us to cover in one hour, and there are many different ideas about what constitutes "research".

Our goal is to introduce you to available resources that will help you learn how to conduct and process research in the way that best fits your needs. To do so, we will look at four key questions:

1. How do I learn to conduct research?
2. What research resources do I have available to me?
3. Now that I have this research done, how do I keep track of it?
4. How do I learn to write in an academic style?

The resources are just a few among many, and a listing here does not constitute an endorsement. It is your responsibility to spend time searching out publications, organizations, and other resources that are relevant to you and your work! As you find hidden gems, please share these with us (IEDCIEInfo@tc.edu) and with your fellow students through the SIE listserv.


How do I learn to conduct research?

- Take courses that are focused on research methods or that have a strong research component to them. (IED/CIE programs; ITS Department; other Departments at TC, such as the Departments of Organization & Leadership, Human Development, etc.; CU SIPA; CU GSAS)
- Participate in workshops offered through the IED/CIE programs and the ITS Department.
- View the online tutorials on the CU libraries website. ([http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/services/workshops/essentials/index.html](http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/services/workshops/essentials/index.html))
- Ask your professors and fellow students!

What research resources do I have available to me?

- Take advantage of the libraries and librarians at CU and TC.
  - Browse the Gottesman Libraries at TC. ([http://library.tc.columbia.edu/](http://library.tc.columbia.edu/))
  - Access the TC library Academic Program Pockets. ([http://pocketknowledge.tc.columbia.edu/home.php/browse/13](http://pocketknowledge.tc.columbia.edu/home.php/browse/13))
  - Ask a TC librarian in person or online. ([http://library.tc.columbia.edu/ask.php](http://library.tc.columbia.edu/ask.php))
  - Make an appointment with CU librarians for individual needs (e.g., Dr. Caruso, the African Studies librarian at CU). ([http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/services/reference/](http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/services/reference/))
  - Peruse the subject guides on the CU libraries website. ([http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/eguides/index.html](http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/eguides/index.html))
Utilize CU/TC databases. Go to the Columbia libraries webpage and search for specific journals and resources, or just browse around. Connect to these resources from TC/CU webpages so that you are recognized as a user.

- JSTOR, Proquest, Academic Source Direct – search multiple journals and periodicals at once.
- Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) and EIU Country Database – political, economic, social forecasts and basic history; economic indicators and financial data
- Armed Conflict Database, Proquest Dissertations
- Do your own journal title searches for peace education, economics, area studies... (http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/eresources/ejournals/index.html)

Find other free databases available online.

- BRIDGE (gender) (http://www.bridge.ids.ac.uk/)
- Conflict Information Consortium (http://conflict.colorado.edu/)
- Development Gateway (http://www.developmentgateway.org/)
- ELDIS (development) (http://eldis.org/)
- Google Scholar (http://scholar.google.com/)
- ID21 (development, focus on policy) (http://www.id21.org/)
- Relief Web (http://www.reliefweb.int/)
- UNESCO (http://portal.unesco.org/education/)
- UNHCR RefWorld (http://www.unhcr.org/research/3ebf8ef14.html)
- World Bank (http://www.worldbank.org/education/)

Find working papers series published online by scholars/development experts, often published by NGOs, international agencies, or centers.

- Women’s Refugee Commission (http://womenscommission.org/resources/)
- UN MDG Reports (http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/)
- University of Sussex, Institute of Development Studies (http://www.ids.ac.uk/)
- Afrobarometer (http://www.afrobarometer.org/)
- Latin American Popular Opinion Project (http://www.vanderbilt.edu/lapop/)

Don’t forget about books!

- Keep track of any series that you like.
- Search for books by keyword or author in the libraries.
- Try used book sites (dealoz.com, half.com, amazon.com...)

Join organizations and professional associations focusing on research, information exchange, and networking. Attend their conferences!

- Comparative and International Education Society (http://www.cies.us)
- National Association of International Educators (http://www.nafsa.org/)
- American Educational Research Association (http://www.aera.net/)
- Latin American Studies Association (http://lasa.international.pitt.edu/)
- African Studies Association (http://www.africanstudies.org/)
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- Sign up for listservs from universities, research centers, and other organizations, as well as Table of Contents alerts from relevant publications.
  - Topical research centers at TC, CU, and other universities
    - TC, Peace Education Center (http://www.tc.columbia.edu/PeaceEd/)
    - CU, Institute of War and Peace Studies (http://www.columbia.edu/cu/siwps/)
    - UCLA, Center for International & Development Education (http://www.cideucla.org/)
    - BC Center for International Higher Education (http://www.bc.edu/bc_org/avp/soe/cie/chejournal/)
  - Area studies at TC, CU, and other universities
    - TC, Center on Chinese Education (http://www.tc.edu/centers/coce/)
    - CU SIPA, Middle East Institute (http://www.sipa.columbia.edu/REGIONAL/mei/)
    - University of Pittsburgh, European Studies Center (http://www.ucis.pitt.edu/euce/euce.html)
    - Academy for Educational Development, Basic Education Update (http://www.basiced.org/)
    - Google News Feeds (http://news.google.com/)
    - H-Net Grad Listserv (http://www.h-net.org/~grad/)
    - Open Democracy (http://www.opendemocracy.net/)
    - Peace and Collaborative Development Network (http://internationalpeaceandconflict.ning.com/)
    - TC Record (http://www.tcrecord.org/ContentCollection.asp?cid=9)

- Pay attention to footnotes and bibliographies. This is extremely valuable.

- Use – but don’t abuse – sites like Wikipedia. There is a big difference between using Wikipedia to "find out" about something and citing it. You need to find academic and/or peer-reviewed scholarship!

Now that I have this research done, how do I keep track of it?

- Start using a bibliographic database. Find workshops at TC or CU on EndNote.
- Most papers at TC should be written in the style of the American Psychological Association (http://apastyle.apa.org/).
  - Familiarize yourself with the APA Publication Manual (available in IED/CIE Program Office and at the TC Graduate Writing Center).
  - Take an Introduction to APA Style workshop at the Graduate Writing Center.
  - Access online help at: Purdue University (http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/)
    - Diana Hacker (http://www.dianahacker.com/resdoc/)

How do I learn to write in an academic style?

- Sign up for one-on-one tutoring sessions or free workshops at the TC Graduate Writing Center. (http://www.tc.columbia.edu/centers/writingcenter/)
- Participate in courses and workshops offered by the IED/CIE programs and elsewhere at TC.
- Ask for further information on resources at the Office of International Services. (http://www.tc.columbia.edu/admin/International/index.asp)