



LIBRARIANS DO RESEARCH TOO!

BY CAROL TENOPIR



LIBRARY CONNECT
→ BLUEPRINT FOR SUCCESS

In this Library Connect Blueprint for Success, Carol Tenopir answers your questions about librarians doing research:



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CHAPTER 1 – But I'm a librarian. Why should I do my own research?

CHAPTER 2 – How do I get started?

CHAPTER 3 – I'm a little fuzzy on research methods. What do I do now?

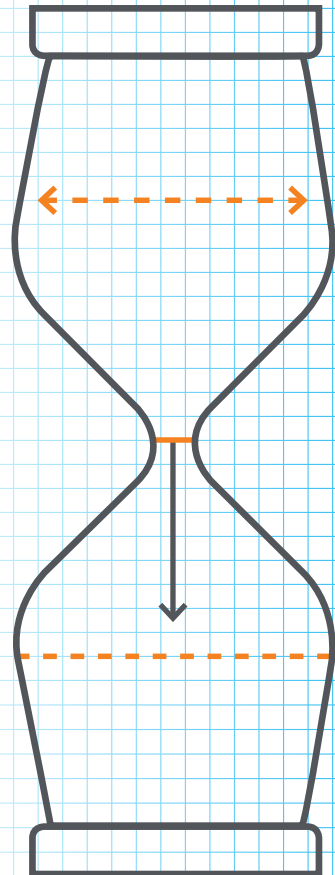
CHAPTER 4 – Okay, I'm ready to go. Or am I?

CHAPTER 5 – I'm doing it! How do I balance my research with the rest of my workload?

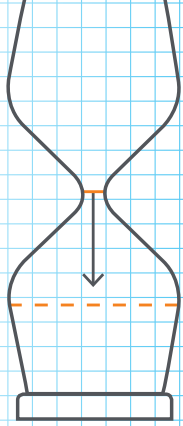
CHAPTER 6 – I've gathered data and completed my research. Am I done?

BIBLIOGRAPHY

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



BUT I'M A LIBRARIAN.
WHY SHOULD I DO
MY OWN RESEARCH? ←



DOING YOUR OWN RESEARCH

← ENHANCE VISIBILITY →

Bringing in grant money is not required, but grants can help you do larger-scale projects and enhance the visibility of you and your library.

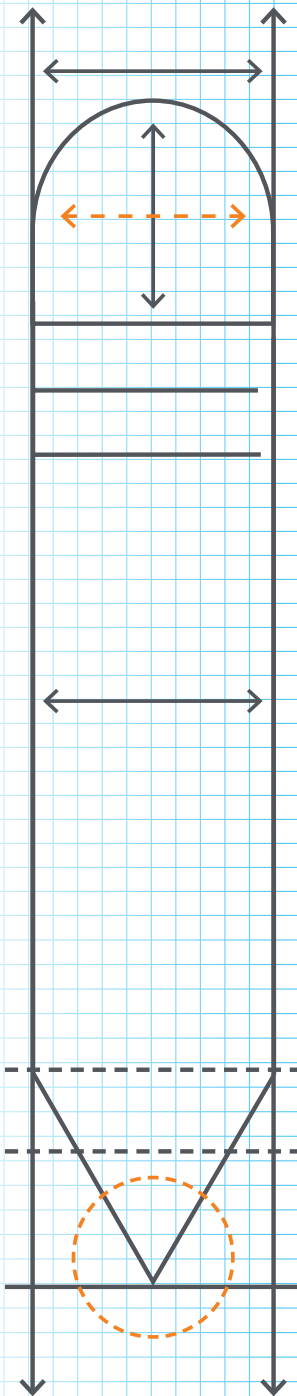
5 **KEY** reasons librarians should do their own research:

1. Improve LIS practices
2. Partner with and understand the needs of researchers
3. Collaborate with librarians in different environments
4. Bring in grant money
5. Build toward promotion and/or tenure

← REQUIREMENT TO PUBLISH →

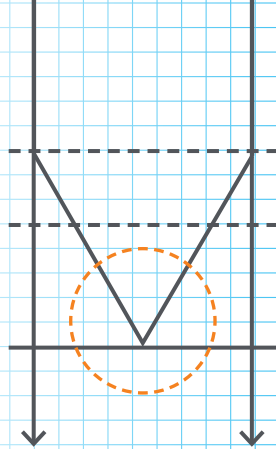
A survey conducted by Catherine Sassen and Diane Wahl suggests an increase in the requirement to publish in academic libraries and an increase in the number of libraries where librarians have faculty status.

— “Fostering Research and Publication in Academic Libraries,” *College & Research Libraries*



HOW DO I
GET STARTED?





GETTING
STARTED

REFLECT and THINK about

- What research questions get you excited?
- Will your background and expertise be of benefit?
- How can you build on strengths within your organization?
- Who can you speak with about their research experiences?

Approach potential COLLABORATORS and FUNDERS

Find out:

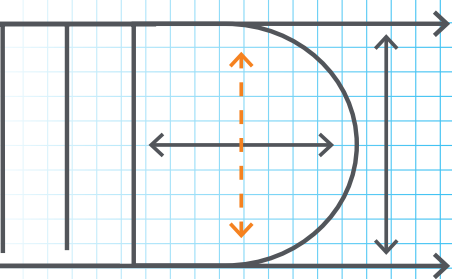
- Who in your circle of colleagues is doing research or interested in starting?
- Are there researchers who would like an information specialist partner?
- Where is funding available — from government agencies, foundations, institutional research offices, professional societies, or companies?

← FUNDING →

From 1996 to 2014,
the Institute of Museum and
Library Services funded more than
1,000 projects in academic libraries,
library consortia, research libraries/
archives, LIS schools and
special libraries.

<http://www.ims.gov/>





GETTING
STARTED

← FINDING
A CONFERENCE →

Search association
websites and check out these
resources:

Library Conference
Planner (© Douglas Hasty)
[http://lcp.douglashasty.com/
index.html](http://lcp.douglashasty.com/index.html)

International Library
Related Conferences
(James Thull & Marian Dworaczek)
[http://www.lib.montana.edu/
~james/](http://www.lib.montana.edu/~james/)

Attend research sessions and talk to **COLLEAGUES** at local, regional, national and international **CONFERENCES**:

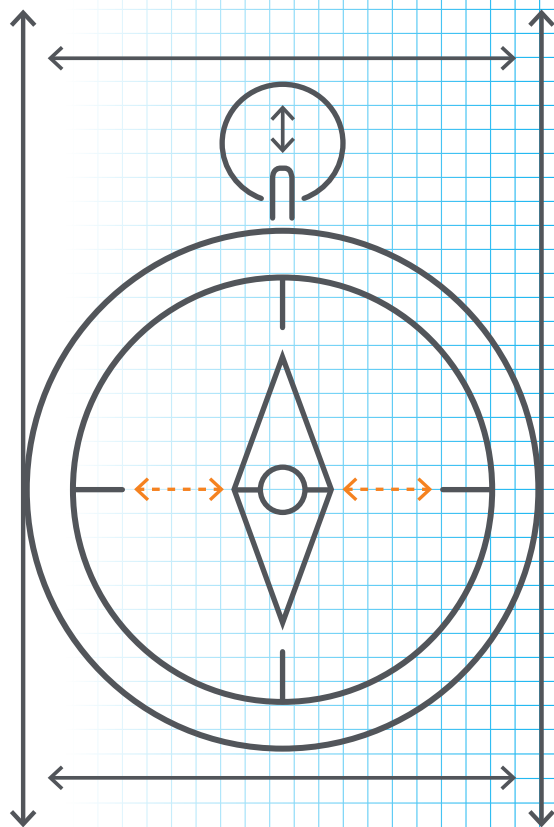
- ✧ Association of College & Research Libraries (ACRL)
- ✧ American Library Association (ALA)
- ✧ Association of Research Libraries (ARL) Assess
- ✧ Association for Information Science and Technology (ASIS&T)
- ✧ International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA)
- ✧ Association of European Research Libraries (LIBER)
- ✧ United Kingdom Serials Group (UKSG)
- ✧ Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA) Research

← OUTSIDE THE BOX →

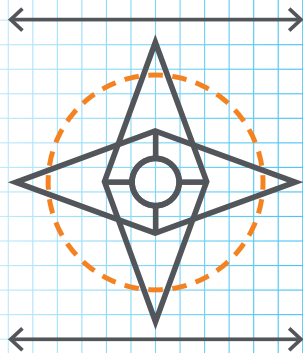
For inspiration beyond the realm of the library, try a multidisciplinary conference such as:
SXSW (<http://sxsw.com/>)
EDUCAUSE (<http://www.educause.edu/annual-conference>)







I'M A LITTLE FUZZY
ON RESEARCH METHODS
WHAT DO I DO NOW? ←



RESEARCH
METHODS

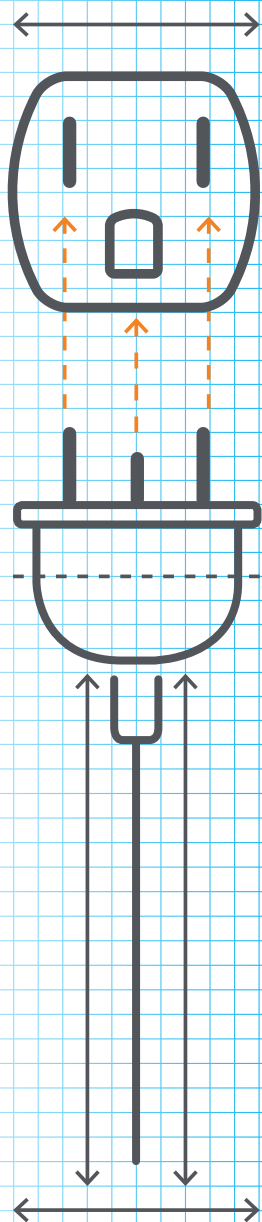
Whether you need a **REFRESHER** or an **INTRODUCTION**:

- ↘ Scan research methods texts
- ↘ Select an appropriate research method (qualitative or quantitative)
- ↘ Think long term — are these research questions and methods you want to build on throughout your career?
- ↘ Take a statistics refresher course or find a research partner with complementary expertise
- ↘ Consider your timeline:
 - « Would a preliminary study with a colleague help you gain experience?
 - « If this is an area with little research to date, can you do an exploratory study first?

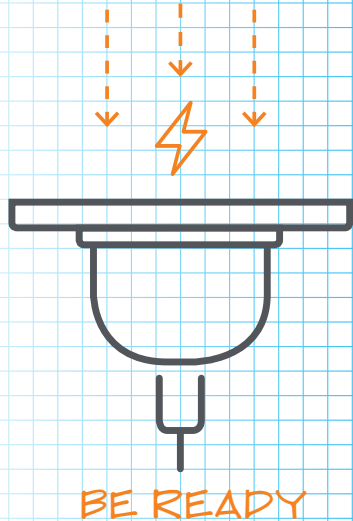
← READING LIST →

*Applications of Social Research
Methods to Questions in Information
and Library Science*

By Barbara M. Wildemuth



OK, I'M READY TO GO
OR AM I? ←



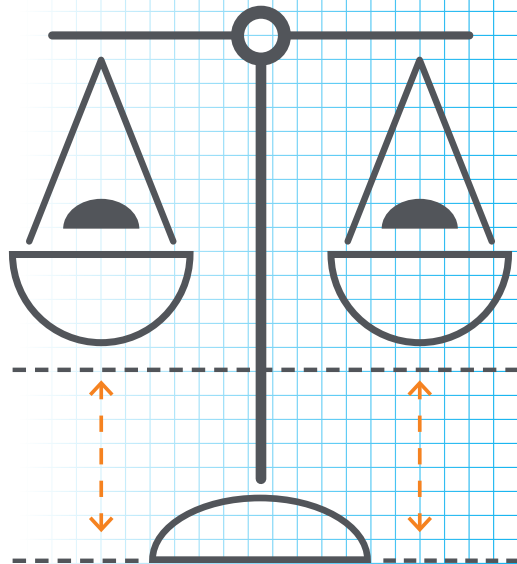
Only if you have taken the **TIME** to:

- ↘ Turn your ideas into a hypothesis or research question
- ↘ Design your study and instruments
- ↘ Conduct some pilot testing and plan analysis before you begin
- ↘ Determine whether you need permission from your Institutional Review Board if your research involves human subjects
- ↘ Decide how you will contact subjects for surveys or interviews

← RESEARCH TIP →

“Research involving contact with students, faculty, staff, or other persons — termed ‘human subjects research’ — may require approval from the college or university institutional review board (IRB).”

— Maura A. Smale, “Demystifying the IRB: Human Subjects Research in Academic Libraries.” *portal: Libraries and the Academy*



I'M DOING IT!
HOW DO I BALANCE
MY RESEARCH WITH
THE REST OF
MY WORKLOAD? ←



BALANCING
RESEARCH &
WORKLOAD

There's **NO SIMPLE ANSWER** to this one:

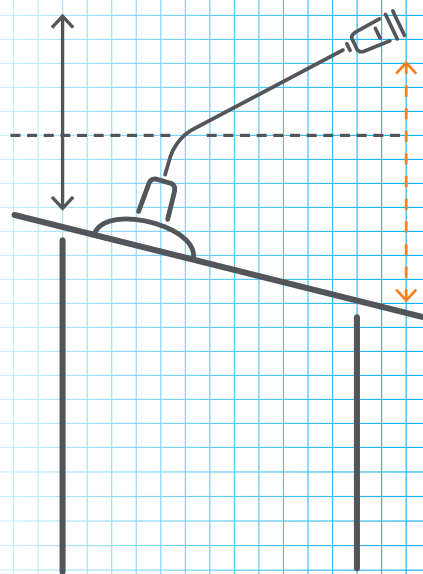
- ✧ Prioritize
- ✧ Tell your supervisor what you're working on
- ✧ Delay taking on new responsibilities if possible
- ✧ Share the research work with colleagues at your library, your university, or other universities who have expertise in some aspects of the project
- ✧ Align your research with your work and ways to improve practice

← BARRIERS TO RESEARCH →

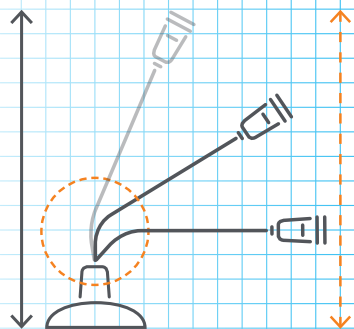
In a 2010 survey, Canadian university librarians indicated their perceptions of the degree to which a series of barriers affect librarians' ability to research. The top five barriers were:

1. Lack of skills
2. Lack of experience
3. Lack of research culture
4. Lack of time
5. Lack of motivation

— Selinda Adelle Berg, Heidi LM Jacobs, and Dayna Cornwall, "Academic Librarians and Research: A Study of Canadian Library Administrator Perspectives." *College & Research Libraries*



I'VE GATHERED DATA
AND COMPLETED MY RESEARCH
AM I DONE? ←



FINISH & SHARE
YOUR WORK

← ACADEMIC WRITING →

Academic writing means
being precise in what you say.
Conduct a literature review
to learn from successful authors,
and be sure to consider
implications and limitations.

Not yet. Now it's time to **CONSOLIDATE** and **PROMOTE** your hard work:

- Organize your thoughts and start writing
- Communicate your findings in a venue that reaches the right audience, whether it is a journal, a conference (presentation or poster) or a newsletter (like Library Connect!)
- Share your work on academic networks like Mendeley, on social media and websites, and on library listservs and blogs

← PROMOTE YOUR WORK →

Find more ways to prepare, publish and promote articles in Elsevier's
"Get Noticed: Promoting Your Article for Maximum Impact"

<http://www.elsevier.com/promote-your-work>



Bibliography by Subject

Academic Writing and Publication

Human Subjects – Contacting

Human Subjects – Institutional Review Board

Hypotheses and Research Questions

Instruments, Pilot Testing and Plan Analysis

Implications

Limitations

Literature Review

Posters

Research Methods

Study Design

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Dr. Carol Tenopir is the author of five books and more than 200 journal articles, and is a frequent speaker at professional conferences. Her areas of teaching and research include: information access and retrieval, electronic publishing, the information industry, online resources, and the impact of technology on reference librarians and scientists. She has been recognized for her service and contributions to the LIS profession with numerous awards and honors. Dr. Tenopir holds a PhD in Library and Information Science from the University of Illinois.

Visit Carol Tenopir's website:

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