GETTING STARTED IN SCHOLARSHIP:
A SCHOLARLY PUBLISHING PRIMER FOR LIBRARIANS

Sarah Steiner

Head of Research & Instruction Services

Western Carolina University

sksteiner@wcu.edu

Today's Special

1. Selecting a topic & gearing up

2. Selecting your research approach with the Boyer Model

3. Constructing and reviewing your piece

4. Choosing a publication venue

5. Navigating the journal editorial process

6. Handling suggestions for edits and rejection

= Research Plan, Awesomeness, & Confidence

Selecting a Topic and Gearing Up

Common Lament:
"This whole thing is overwhelming."

Mentors, Co-Authors, Editors, and Other Allies

Common Lament:
"I don't have any ideas worth writing about."

Brainstorm Topics

Brainstorm Topics

- What challenges is my library facing?
- What challenges am I facing in my job?
- Is there a dearth of existing data on something I'm worrying about or dealing with?
- Have I read a great article recently and want to build on its findings?
- What new trend or idea am I excited about?
- Do I have a skill from a previous job/career which librarians might be able to adapt?
- Have I completed a project or tried a strategy I'm proud of?
- Have I tried something which failed, and I'd like to assess why it didn't work so others don't make the same mistake?
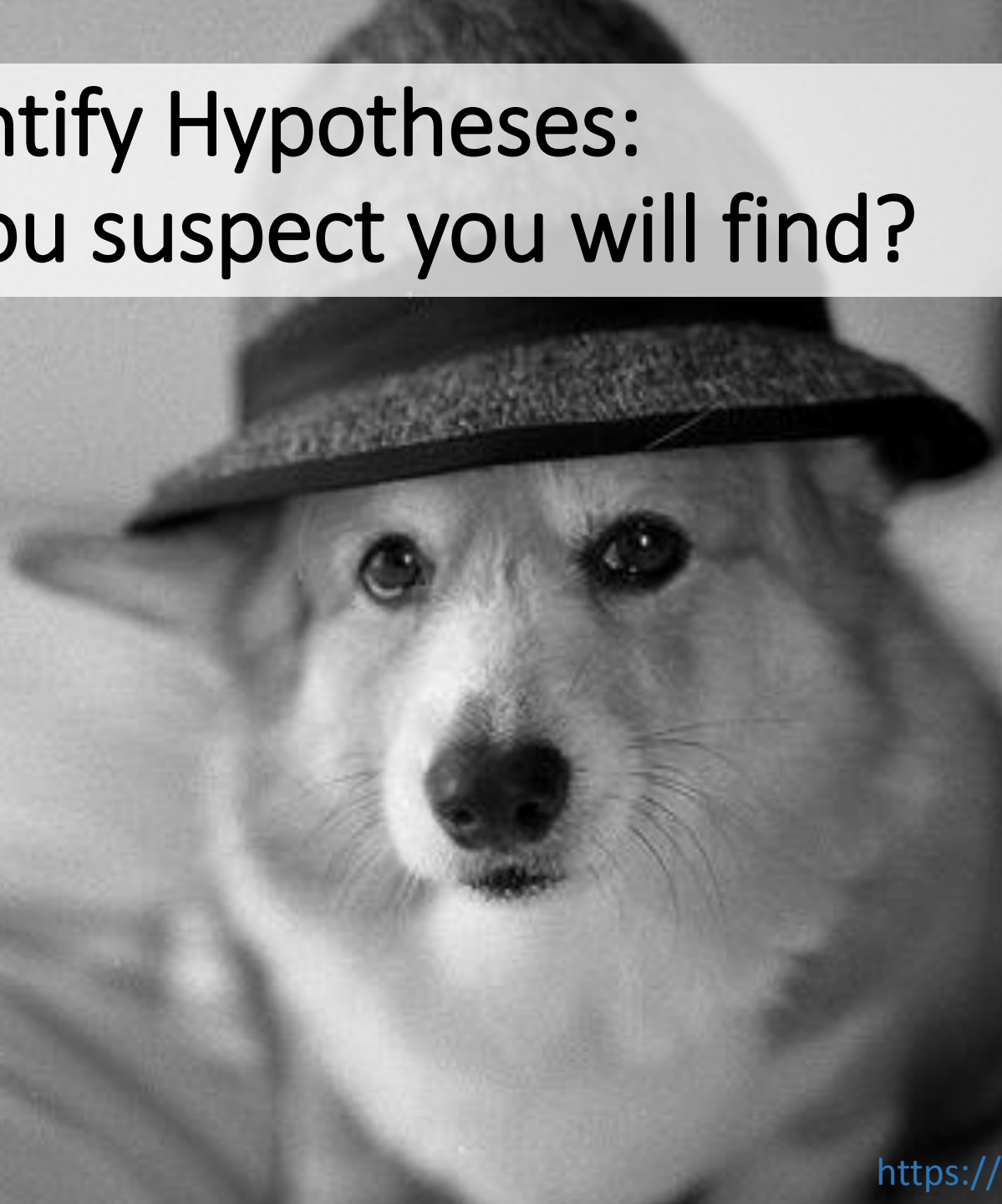
Common Problems

- Article doesn't pass the "so what" test
- Topic isn't original or significant
- Plan isn't feasible to implement

https://flic.kr/p/nV3XQm

"So What" Example

- **Problem I was facing:** A lot of librarians were taking a very long time to pick up chat questions, and by the time they answered, the patron would be gone. Almost 20% of questions were being "missed."

- **So what?** If we don't answer a chat in a timely fashion, the patron goes away unhappy and without an answer. That person might not use chat again or might tell friends about the negative experience. Our chat traffic would decline and cause people to have negative feelings about the library.

Identify Hypotheses:
What do you suspect you will find?

https://flic.kr/p/dHoPfK

Conduct a Preliminary Literature Scan

https://flic.kr/p/a4VWED

Choose Your Route with the Boyer Model

Scholarship of Discovery

Traditional empirical research
- Surveys
- Focus groups
- Ethnographies
- Case studies
- Experiments

Scholarship of Integration

Synthesizes research across disciplines, within a discipline, or across time

- Application of business ideas to librarianship
- Application of counseling models to librarianship
- Annotated bibliographies or other overviews on specific topics
- Identification of trends or presentation of new ideas

Scholarship of Application

Discovery of ways new information/knowledge can be applied to solve problems.

- Applying the new(ish) ACRL Information Literacy framework to class exercises to improve student motivation.
- Applying a new theory in cataloging to improve workflow

https://flic.kr/p/98SbGw

Scholarship of Teaching

Systematic study of teaching and learning processes

- Exploration/sharing of class activities
- Exploration of training best practices

Recap of Research Options

Exercise: pick a topic and consider how it might be realized as scholarship in each of the Boyer categories.

- **Scholarship of Discovery** (traditional empirical research survey, focus group, case study, experiment, ethnography)

- **Scholarship of Integration** (synthesis of ideas from other disciplines or areas, synthesis of ideas across time)

- **Scholarship of Application** (how can the discoveries of others be applied to solve your question)

- **Scholarship of Teaching** (exploration of class, learning, or training activities)

Conduct a Full Literature Review

https://flic.kr/p/8icLi9

Literature Review Function
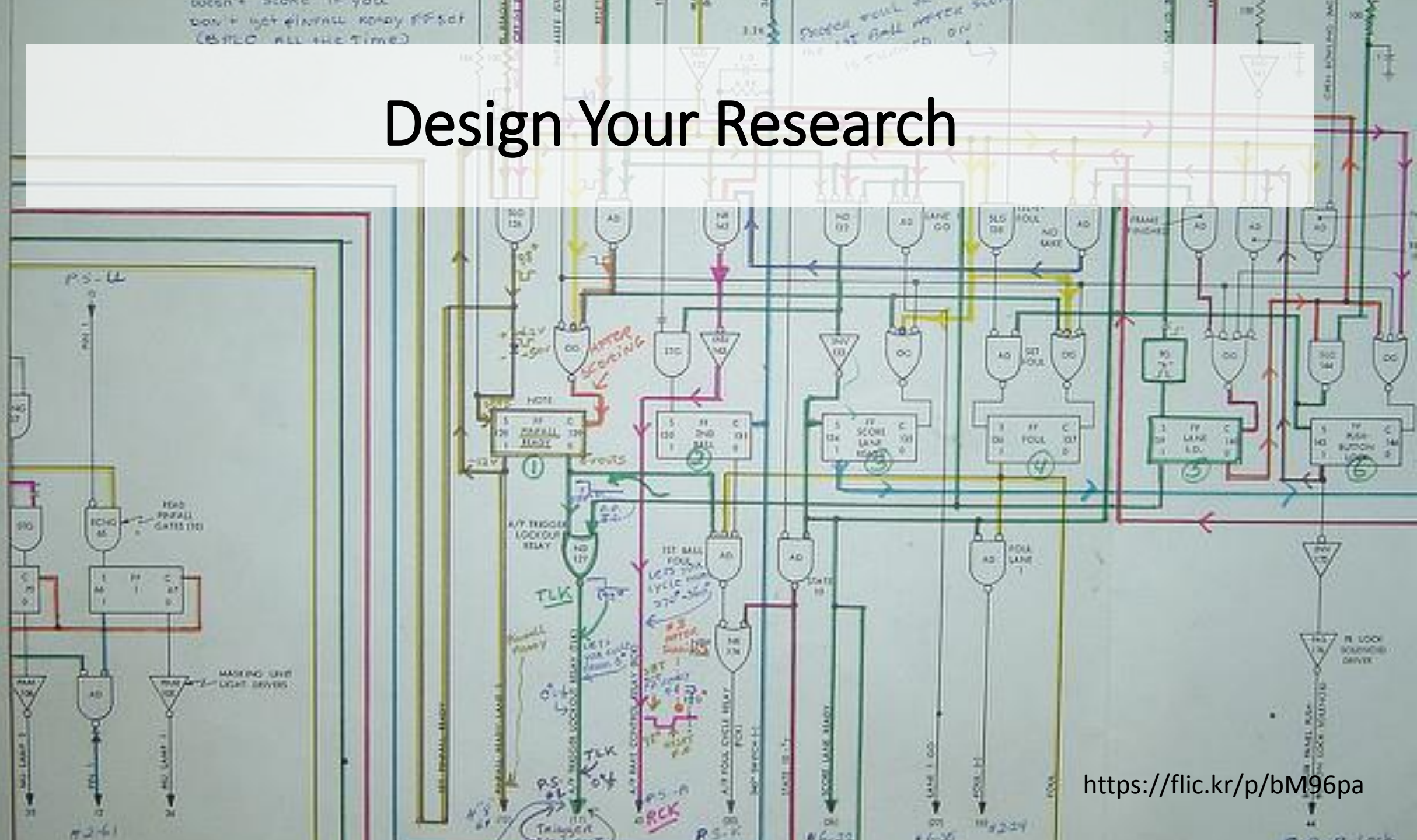
Literature Review Structure

- General to specific
- Chronological
- Topical
- Type of research

Your review needs to be exhaustive, but the works cited list does not.

Tips borrowed from Massey University guide to Literature Review Structure

Design Your Research

https://flic.kr/p/bM96pa

Review Extant Data/Information

Collect New Data/Information

Collect New Data: Ask People

Collect New Data: Observe People

Question Construction

Keep Scope In Mind

Example

- **Extant Data:**
  - Use chat transcripts to see how long a patron waited before receiving a response.
- **New Data:**
  - Interview random chat users about their experiences and thoughts regarding wait time.
  - Solicit chat users and observe them to determine how long they wait before they give up.
  - Ask users how long they think they'd be willing to wait before they gave up.

Example Narrowed

- **Extant Data:**
  - Use chat transcripts to see how long a patron waited before receiving a response.

- ~~**New Data:**~~
  - ~~Interview random chat users about their experiences.~~
  - ~~Solicit chat users and observe them to determine how long they wait before they express annoyance.~~
  - ~~Ask users how long they think they'd be willing to wait before they gave up/got annoyed.~~

Methodology Brainstorm Exercise

- What information would you need to help you answer your research question?
  - Do you have existing data to use?
  - Will you need to gather new data/information?
- If you do need to collect new data...
  - Which information collection mode will best meet the information need and your abilities?
    - Survey:
    - Interviews:
    - Focus groups:
    - Observation study:

Academics: Don't forget your IRB

Construct and Review Your Piece

Common Construction Problems

- Consistency: tone, tense, writing style
- Grammar
- Literature review: scope, currency, structure, focus
- Weak research methods
- Authorship arguments

What concerns do you have/ or what feedback have you encountered?

Choose a Publication Venue

share | embed   ✖   10   ⬇   order by ... relevance ▾   search all ▾   search term

— Journals vs Articles

Journals ✖

— Subject

10   count ⬇   OR

Bibliography. Library science. Information resources ✖

Technology (General) (2)

Technology (2)

Medicine (General) (2)

Medicine (2)

Information technology (2)

Information resources (General) (2)

Industrial engineering. Management engineering (2)

Subject: Bibliography. Library science. Information resources ✖   Journals vs Articles: Journals ✖   Country of publisher: United States ✖

1 – 10 of 28   ➡

Issues in Informing Science and Information Technology
ISSN: 1547-5840 (Print); 1547-5867 (Online)
http://iisit.org/
Subject: Technology: Technology (General): Industrial engineering. Management engineering: Information technology | Bibliography. Library science. Information resources
Date added to DOAJ: 27 Sept 2005

Data Curation Profiles Directory
ISSN: 2326-6651 (Online)
http://docs.lib.purdue.edu/dcp/
Peer review
Subject: Bibliography. Library science. Information resources
Date added to DOAJ: 6 Oct 2016

(cc) BY ✅

Journal of Copyright in Education and Librarianship
JCEL

(cc) BY ✅

ULRICHSWEB™
GLOBAL SERIALS DIRECTORY

NC LIVE - Western Carolina University   --Select Language--

Search   **Workspace**   **Ulrich's Update**   **Admin**

Enter a Title, ISSN, or search term to find journals or other periodicals:

▼ Advanced Search

☑ Retain my Advanced Search options

Advanced Search

Match Search Terms: Any ▼

Subject (Exact) ▼   LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCES   ▼ Add Term

Add Group

Match Search Groups: All ▼

Limit Your Results

Status:
- ☑ Active
- ☐ Announced Never Published
- ☐ Ceased
- ☑ Forthcoming

Serial Type:
- ☐ Abstract/Index
- ☐ Database
- ☑ Journal
- Magazine

Content Type:
- ☑ Academic / Scholarly
- ☐ Bibliography
- ☐ Consumer
- ☐ Trade

Language of Text:
- ☑ English
- ☐ Not English
- ☐ Afrikaans
- Afro-Asiatic

The journal and book editorial process

Handling Suggestions for Edits and Rejection

https://flic.kr/p/F5tn8o

Academic Library Division > Call for Papers

CALL FOR PAPERS

Academic Library Division of the Georgia Library Association
Georgia Chapter of ACRL
Georgia Libraries 2017 Conference
October 4-6 , 2017
Colambus, Georgia

The Academic Library Division of the Georgia Library Association/Georgia Chapter of ACRL iinvites Georgia librarians and library science students to submit research papers pertaining to academic libraries for presentation at 2017 Georgia Libraries Conference. Criteria for selection include purpose, content, organization, scholarship, and references. Papers should include research on developments in academic libraries that present challenging opportunities for libraries and librarianship throughout the state, region, or nation. Papers should be approximately 2000 words.

The *Georgia Library Quarterly* (GLQ) may invite selected authors to submit their papers for possible publication in GLQ.

GLA will award a cash prize for the paper selected as the top entry and complimentary Georgia Library conference registration for the second and third entry. The three top papers will be presented at the Georgia Libraries Conference in Columbus, GA.

Resources

Babbie, Earl. *The Practice of Social Research.* Wadsworth Publishing, 13th edition, 2012.

Beadell, Stephanie. Surveys 101: A Simple Guide to Asking Effective Questions. https://zapier.com/learn/forms-surveys/writing-effective-survey/

Beck, Susan E., and Kate Manuel. *Practical Research Methods for Librarians and Information Professionals.* Neal-Schuman, 2008.

Boyer, Ernest. *Scholarship Reconsidered: Priorities of the Professoriate* (Special Report) Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, 1990.

Creative Research Systems. Sample Size Calculator. http://www.surveysystem.com/sscalc.htm

Creswell, John W. and Vicki L. Plano Clark. *Designing and Conducting Mixed Methods Research.* 2nd edition. Sage, 2011.

Creswell, John W. *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods Approaches*, 4th edition. Sage, 2013.

Dillman, Don A., Jolene D. Smyth, Leah Melani Christian. *Internet, Mail, and Mixed-Mode Surveys: The Tailored Design Method*, 3rd edition.

Elsevier. *Understanding the Publishing Process: How to Publish in Scholarly Journals.* https://www.elsevier.com/__data/assets/pdf_file/0003/91173/Brochure_UPP_April2015.pdf

Fried Foster, Nancy and Susan Gibbons, Eds. Studying Students: The Undergraduate Research Project at the University of Rochester. Association of College & Research Libraries, Chicago, 2007. http://www.ala.org/acrl/sites/ala.org.acrl/files/content/publications/booksanddigitalresources/digital/Foster-Gibbons_cmpd.pdf

Hedges, Andrew. *Random Number Generator.* http://andrew.hedges.name/experiments/random/

Qualtrics. *Determining Sample Size: How to Ensure You Get the Correct Sample Size.* https://www.qualtrics.com/blog/determining-sample-size/

Silipigni Connaway, Lynn, and Ronald R. Powell. *Basic Research Methods for Librarians.* 5th edition. Libraries Unlimited, 2010.

Swygart-Hobaugh, Mandy. Sociology Subject Guide to Graduate Research: Finding Existing Data—Qualitative. http://research.library.gsu.edu/gradsoc/finddata

Sarah Steiner
sksteiner@wcu.edu

Sample Sizes and Selection

Structural Questions?

https://flic.kr/p/3pjWT8