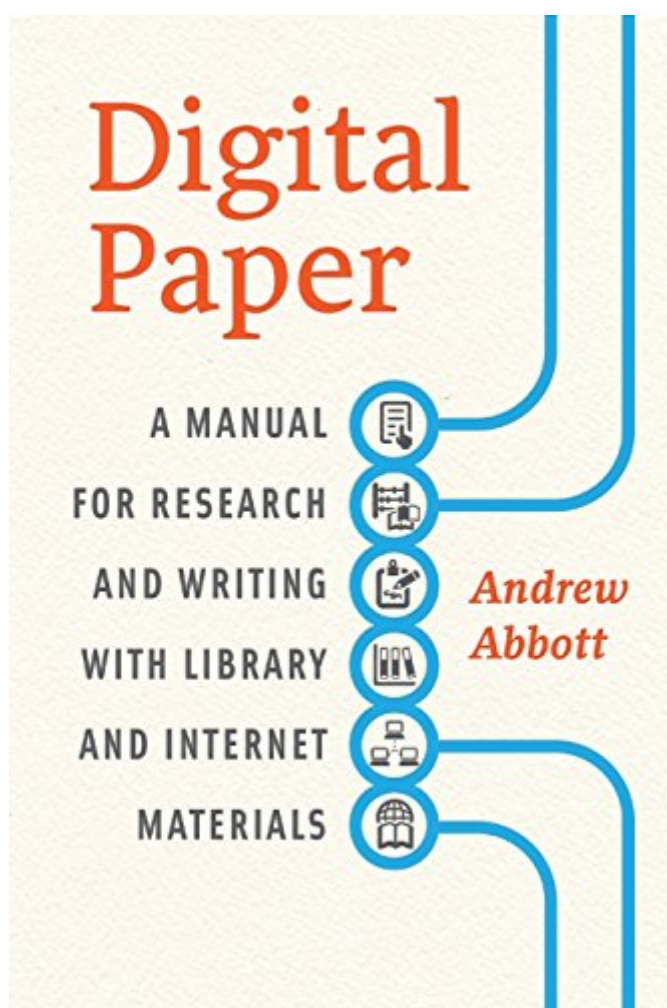The book was found

Digital Paper: A Manual For Research And Writing With Library And Internet Materials (Chicago Guides To Writing, Editing, And Publishing)

Synopsis

TodayÃ¢â¬â„¢s researchers have access to more information than ever before. Yet the new material is both overwhelming in quantity and variable in quality. How can scholars survive these twin problems and produce groundbreaking research using the physical and electronic resources available in the modern university research library? In Digital Paper, Andrew Abbott provides some much-needed answers to that question.Abbott tells what every senior researcher knows: that research is not a mechanical, linear process, but a thoughtful and adventurous journey through a nonlinear world.Ã Â He breaks library research down into seven basic and simultaneous tasks: design, search, scanning/browsing, reading, analyzing, filing, and writing. He moves the reader through the phases of research, from confusion to organization, from vague idea to polished result. He teaches how to evaluate data and prior research; how to follow a trail to elusive treasures; how to organize a project; when to start over; when to ask for help. He shows how an understanding of scholarly values, a commitment to hard work, and the flexibility to change direction combine to enable the researcher to turn a daunting mass of found material into an effective paper or thesis.More than a mere Ã Â how-to manual, AbbottÃ¢â¬â„¢s guidebook helps teach good habits for acquiring knowledge, the foundation of knowledge worth knowing. Those looking for ten easy steps to a perfect paper may want to look elsewhere. But serious scholars, who want their work to stand the test of time, will appreciate AbbottÃ¢â¬â„¢s unique, forthright approach and relish every page of Digital Paper.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

As a current graduate student, there is quite a bit of mystery in terms of what constitutes a 'successful' academic paper. Often, at least, in my experience professors assume the process of research, writing and editing to have been mastered by us.This book fills in any gaps in knowledge a student (particularly at the graduate level) might have in pursuing their research. There are some questions that seem almost too obvious to ask and this book helps you answer them. In the book, Abbott takes his reader through each stage of the research process and provides explanations for things that are perfunctory but lacking any rationale (for example, you'll learn the purpose of an annotated bibliography!).Abbott's thoughtful and lucidly written work has greatly helped me with my research process, and I expect to continuously refer to it as I ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â progress towards my dissertation.I highly recommend this student to any student in the social sciences or humanities. It is clearly written and does not dumb down information while simultaneously being highly informative.

The book is a bit chaotic. The title is misleading: it is not about digital materials per se, but rather about uses of library in general, be it a physical library or a digital one. However, I would still recommend it to those interested in the topic.

This is the kind of book that will make even older academics say, ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å"I dearly wish IÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢d had this when I was a grad student myself.ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• It should be required reading for all academic researchers, especially those doing work on thesis- or dissertation- or book-length projects. It is written by a sociologist who draws on a great deal of personal research experience himself, as well as on his position of having guided the work of many graduate students, of whom he writes, ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å"they asked the questions that made me realize what I was failing to teach.ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• This guide is one of the strongest antidotes

available to the naïve notion that "one stop shopping" on the Internet or in a few subscription databases is adequate for real scholarship. In Abbott's own words, "my computational experience gives me an insider's view of digital knowledge tools, and my skepticism about them—of which more below—is based not on simple conservatism but on having extensively used such tools." The author's hands-on experience is evident throughout the book from the many examples he gives. Particularly refreshing—and valuable—is his emphasis on the importance of the serious reading of actual books. "You cannot do serious research entirely by scanning, skimming, extracting, or other forms of surface engagement." Equally important is his discussion of browsing in book stacks as in important component of research—an art and a skill that is nowadays too often entirely overlooked by those who think that specifying keywords in a blank search box is generally all that is needed to retrieve whatever one is searching for. In Abbott's words, "Since keyword tools produce immense lists most of whose entries are useless, those who develop them have created sorting mechanisms to bring the useful material to the top. Most of these 'relevance' sortings are themselves useless"; and "search engine rankings are not reliable guides to quality." Any students who have relied on Google searching to the neglect of more powerful and more focused sources will breathe an "Amen," time after time, in reading this book—all the more often if the only "information literacy" instruction they've received in their classes has consisted of talks on "how to think critically about the web sites you've found," as if finding web sites alone were all that is necessary, as long as you "think critically" about them. Abbott is particularly good in laying out what is needed in the design of research projects, paying particular attention to the methods of efficiently creating and managing files that allow for changes in the project's goals as new information is discovered. This, too, is something that gets swept under the rug in too many conventional information literacy classes: the awareness, even the inevitability, that the direction of one's project may itself change radically as new information is discovered through various stages of inquiry—stages that extend well beyond the initial "one stop shopping" that is held up as the ultimate goal by many librarians who lack Abbott's practical experience and downright

ÃƒÂ¢Ã â¬Ã Å"savvy.ÃƒÂ¢Ã â¬Ã Â• Abbott is also especially insightful in his recommendations concerning how to read and evaluate sourcesÃƒÂ¢Ã â¬Ã â•his advice reminds me in some ways of Mortimer AdlerÃƒÂ¢Ã â¬Ã â„¢s and Charles Van DorenÃƒÂ¢Ã â¬Ã â„¢s _How to Read a Book_, a classic that itself ought to be more widely read. In short, if you are an academic: read this book, no matter where you are in your career; but if youÃƒÂ¢Ã â¬Ã â„¢re just starting out, read it twice.

As a current graduate student, there is quite a bit of mystery in terms of what constitutes a 'successful' academic paper. Often, at least, in my experience professors assume the process of research, writing and editing to have been mastered by us.This book fills in any gaps in knowledge a student (particularly at the graduate level) might have in pursuing their research. There are some questions that seem almost too obvious to ask and this book helps you answer them. In the book, Abbott takes his reader through each stage of the research process and provides explanations for things that are perfunctory but lacking any rationale (for example, you'll learn the purpose of an annotated bibliography!).Abbott's thoughtful and lucidly written work has greatly helped me with my research process, and I expect to continuously refer to it as I ÃƒÂ¢Ã â¬Ã â progress towards my dissertation.I highly recommend this student to any student in the social sciences or humanities. It is clearly written and does not dumb down information while simultaneously being highly informative.

He has some good points. I like the idea of mini-analysis into the research work. In other place, he goes into unnecessary trivial details. Some of the arguments agains the Search; and, in favor or the hand-based indexing are sound to some extent. But, he repeats them too much; and, underplays the power of search to a large extent.It is mostly geared towards the library work for social scientists. It might be helpful for those in the social fields. My research is in humanities. The strategies are generally fairly applicable to my field too. But, in general, I don't think any one would miss that much if he/she skipped this book. Most parts of the books are just commonsense advise on how to do library search.

Digital Paper: A Manual for Research and Writing with Library and Internet Materials (Chicago Guides to Writing, Editing, and Publishing) A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations, Eighth Edition: Chicago Style for Students and Researchers (Chicago Guides to Writing, Editing, and Publishing) A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations, Seventh Edition: Chicago Style for Students and Researchers (Chicago Guides to

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