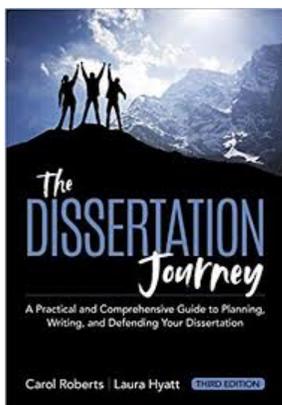


The Dissertation Journey: A Practical Guide to Planning, Writing, and Defending Your Dissertation



The Dissertation Journey: A Practical Guide to Planning, Writing, and Defending Your Dissertation (3rd, Ed., 2018). Carol Roberts and Laura Hyatt, CORWIN

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Roberts and Hyatt's purpose for this text was to create a descriptive text that will provide readers, very likely doctoral students who are preparing to write their dissertations, with a directed, focused, conversational guidebook that will provide exactly what the student needs to plan a dissertation, write each section of the dissertation, and information for the doctoral student to defend their dissertation research. They intended to create a straight-forward, easy-to-read-and-apply, supportive document that helps doctoral students get started right away with their biggest challenge of their academic career. The text is practical, guided, and forthright on what is needed to get started with the dissertation process. Its format is simple to and easy to read as it is broken down into chapters with information in each chapter outlined on its own page. This simple and uncomplicated format is a pleasure to read and it will not overwhelm doctoral students who are looking to move into this process of their academic careers. I strongly believe that

authors Roberts and Hyatt have successfully accomplished their stated purpose for this text.

The dissertation preparation field is a crowded with many different articles and textbooks and other information sources regarding this process. The authors wrote this text not with a theoretical lens, but rather, a lens that provides doctoral students new to this process with an easy-to-follow-and-apply format to getting started, continuing, and completing the dissertation process. I have found that this work by Roberts and Hyatt is exactly what they purported, no nonsense and step-by-step support to getting this task completed. The authors make a direct reference to other works that are on this topic as a way to set themselves apart from the competition. I agree with them that they have provided readers with a simple and uncomplex way to get started preparing for and writing their dissertation. Additionally, the authors include practical steps for doctoral students to remain in perspective along the way and to understand that the feelings and issues they may be dealing with are perfectly normal and that no two dissertations and the paths they take to be completed are the same. These statements provide grounding for the reader knowing they are not alone in their journey.

Roberts and Hyatt are in their third edition of this work and the differences are concentrated. They have pointed out in the text they have presented specific updates such as having reviewed, revised, and updated each of the chapters in this new version of the text. Additionally, the authors have indicated new and helpful websites that are focused on each of the sections/chapters information that offer doctoral students' ready resources they can access in a single click to review for additional information. These ready web-based supports are entitled "Resources" and this information is located at the end of each chapter. I found the information from these websites helpful and useful, if I were a doctoral student getting ready for dissertation work.

The relative quality of this work to the dissertation preparation and defense field is significant in that the reader, who is already probably overwhelmed with having to start, move through, and complete the dissertation process, may not know where to start. Writing a dissertation is, usually, a one-time event and specific preparation is not always in place. Roberts and Hyatt know that their readers are probably overwhelmed with getting started on this process and they acknowledge this from the start of the text. The format is short and to-the-point with just the right amount of information outlined on each page. The doctoral student will not get lost reading additional information they don't need or want. Additionally, the support of the websites at the end of each chapter offer the opportunity for the reader to delve into more detailed information that can support and guide

their dissertation efforts. Customized support is helpful and needed during this process. I can state that from personal experience, I used this text, in a previous edition, to craft and muddle my way through my dissertation planning, writing, and defense. I found it so helpful and useful to successfully complete my dissertation that I've recommended it to some of the doctoral students I mentor and support along their dissertation journey. It is a high-quality contribution to the work in the field that any possibly overwhelmed doctoral student will appreciate, just as I did.

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