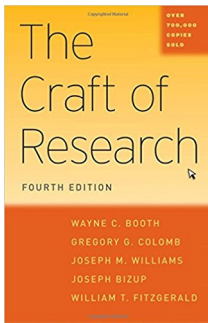# The Craft of Research

Bilgin AKSOY

Informatics Institute

January 9, 2018

Authors

- Wayne C. Booth (Prof. in English Teaching-Literature)
- Gregory G. Colomb (Prof. in English Teaching-Literature)
- Joseph M. Williams (Prof. in English Teaching-Literature)
- Joseph Bizup (Assoc. Prof. in English)
- William T. Fitzgerald (Assoc. Prof. in English)

Information

- This is the fourth edition(1995, 2003, 2008, 2016).
- The publisher is The University of Chicago.
- Subjects: Research–Methodology — Technical Writing
- 316 pages
- It is available in METU Book-store.

Who should read this book? And What to Read?

- All researchers: not only the students but also those in business and government who do and report research on any topic. The book covers :
  - Topic-Questions-Problem-Sources
  - Argument-Claim-Reasons-Evidence-Acknowledgements-Responses-Warrants
  - Writing (Planning-Organizing-Styling)

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Topic

- Start listing your interests.

- Select one or two of them.

- Search in a library, and online databases (CQ Researcher, Academic Search Premier, Google Scholar or domain specific databeses like IEEE etc.) Don't use Wikipedia.

- After selecting one broad topic, try to narrow it.

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Questions

- Once selecting the topic, ask questions to engage your best critical thinking. (Who, What, When, Where, **How, and Why**)
- Ask yourself So What? (Is there any cost/loss if you don't answer the question?)

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Problem

- After questioning the topic, try to find the significance from your readers' point of view.
- And find a good research problem. (Set realistic goals.)

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- **Primary Sources:** Original materials, Historical records, raw data. (Exp. if you cite Bayes Theorem than cite the original document written by Thomas Bayes.)

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- **Reasons:** Why do you said that? Why should I agree?
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