UX Research Starter Resources

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**Starter questions 🤔**

*What do UX Researchers do?*

* [A realistic week in my life as a UX Researcher](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PWBCEzqR0OE) - video by Aona Yang, senior UXR at Google

*What kinds of UXR methodologies exist?*

* [NN/g - When to use which research method](https://www.nngroup.com/articles/which-ux-research-methods/)
* [Meta Research Blog: Comparing UX Research Methods](https://medium.com/meta-research/comparing-ux-research-methods-d315050b1698)

**YouTube channels about UXR! ▶️**

Aona Yang is a Senior UXR at Google (previously at Airbnb and a start-up) and has a great [YouTube channel](https://www.youtube.com/c/AonaTalks/videos) that covers a variety of UXR topics for both people looking to get into the industry and current UXRs looking to keep a pulse on industry trends - highly recommend it! I feel that her advice generally applies to all large tech companies, not just Google. Some useful videos include [How to become a UX Researcher](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MnDvcJMcEug) and the [UX Stakeholder Management](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KqdMYwFbB2E) 3-part series.

Kevin Liang hosts [Zero to UX](https://www.youtube.com/kevinliang) which has a range of videos covering both UX research and design. Highlights include a review of [free remote research tools](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n-yB6SazSBs), [creating a portfolio with zero experience](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SzuMaaPLD1I) and interviews with a variety of practitioners - like the [San Francisco Federal Reserve](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pqtR7Q_fFOg)!

**Blogs and articles 📘**

* [The UX Review](https://medium.com/the-ux-review) features interviews with many different types of UX practitioners
* [Meta Research on Medium](https://medium.com/meta-research) has a variety of articles featuring different methodologies, career transitions to UXR (see: [from academia](https://medium.com/meta-research/from-tenure-to-tech-professors-who-pivoted-to-ux-research-a26fa2e9123d), [from consulting](https://medium.com/meta-research/making-the-move-from-research-consulting-to-uxr-dbdb5541b484), [from non-profit](https://medium.com/meta-research/from-nonprofit-to-ux-research-making-the-hop-bfb6900ff818)) and learnings from adapting research to COVID-19.
* [DScout People Nerds blog](https://dscout.com/people-nerds)
* [Samantha Davies’ Medium blog series](https://sambambo.medium.com/) (Head of UXR at Zoopla, ex-Monzo)
* [Becoming an AR user researcher](https://sparkar.facebook.com/blog/ar-careers-ar-user-researcher?utm_medium=sparkar_page&utm_source=facebook&utm_campaign=oganic&content_id=2CcmfXnMcz36qpH) blog post (Stef Hutka, UXR at Meta)
* [UX Tools](https://uxtools.co/) Topic - Research & Testing

**Podcasts 🎧**

* [Mixed Methods](https://www.mixed-methods.org/episodes)
* [Dollars to Donuts](https://open.spotify.com/show/26yTpSSgqzR58wdlFTEvis)
* [NN/g UX Podcast](https://open.spotify.com/show/3GFTfWpfv6m8nhKsPOlT8m)
* [Awkward Silences](https://open.spotify.com/show/26btXibgh2cxTo10ey12vj)
* Brave UX - [audio](https://braveux.podbean.com/) | [video](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCdOejeOwirOOzRIv55nDryg)
* [What I Wish I Knew](https://iwishiknew.splashthat.com/) from Twitter Research

**Communities 🍻**

* [UX Research Collective](https://www.facebook.com/groups/uxrcollective/about/)(Facebook group)
* [Mixed Methods](https://www.mixed-methods.org/) (Slack)
* [Ethnography Hangout](https://ethnographymatters.net/blog/2016/01/25/we-have-a-slack-join-us-at-ethnography-hangout-to-discuss-applied-ethnography/) (Slack)
* [Ladies that UX London](https://www.ladiesthatux.com/) (Slack and meet-up)
* [UX Professionals Association (UXPA) UK](https://uxpa-uk.org/) (Slack and meet-up)
* [Service Design Network (SDN) UK](https://www.service-design-network.org/chapters/uk) (Slack and meet-up)
* [UX Research Huddle London](https://www.meetup.com/User-Research-Huddle/) (Meet-up)
* [The Research Thing London](https://www.meetup.com/researchthing/) (Meet-up)
* [Service Lab London](https://www.meetup.com/Service-Lab-London/) (Meet-up)
* [Research Ops Community](https://researchops.community) (Slack)
* [UX Research Academy](http://uxresearchacademy.slack.com) (Slack)

**Mentorship programs 🤝🏾**

* [UX Hexagon](http://hexagonux.com/mentorship): Highly structured mentoring program for junior UX researchers and designers that runs every quarter. Time commitment is about 1 hr/week for ~6 weeks. Only open to womxn and non-binary.
* [UXPA UK](https://uxpa-uk.org/development/mentoring/): UX Professionals' Association mentoring program (£35/year fee for association membership) provides flexible mentorship for a variety of levels and UX-related functions. Length and frequency is decided by the mentor/mentee.
* [UX Coffee Hours](https://storage.googleapis.com/uxcoffeehours.com/site/index.html): One-off Zoom coffee chats with a variety of professionals across the UX discipline. Each session is 30-60 mins, as a mentor you can set your maximum session requests/week.
* [She Says](https://www.shesayswhosyourmomma.com/about-us/): Mentoring program for womxn creatives. This is more aimed at market research and agency-side work. Length and frequency is decided by the mentor/mentee.
* [Coop Careers](https://coopcareers.org/): Not UXR specific but a way into tech - free educational program for unemployed and disadvantaged college grads in the US. There are three tracks: Digital marketing, Tech sales, Data analytics.

**Salary and negotiation 💰**

*Salary benchmark reports*

* [Zebra People, 2019-2020](https://zebrapeople.com/views/salary-survey-2020-ux-findings/) (London)
* [UXR Salary Report 2021](https://www.uxrsalary.com/) (Global)
* [UX Salary in Silicon Valley video from Aona Talks](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1uDz9e8qF_A) (Bay Area)
* [State of User Research Report 2020](https://www.userinterviews.com/blog/the-state-of-user-research-report-2020) (Global)

*Negotiation resources*

* [She Negotiates: Resources](https://www.shenegotiates.com/free-resources)
* [81 Cents Resource Library](https://www.81cents.com/resources)

**Books**

* [Don’t make me think, Steve Krug](https://www.amazon.com/Dont-Make-Think-Revisited-Usability/dp/0321965515/ref=asc_df_0321965515/?tag=hyprod-20&linkCode=df0&hvadid=312091457223&hvpos=&hvnetw=g&hvrand=13272535874711153388&hvpone=&hvptwo=&hvqmt=&hvdev=c&hvdvcmdl=&hvlocint=&hvlocphy=9005925&hvtargid=pla-434511777018&psc=1&tag=&ref=&adgrpid=62820903995&hvpone=&hvptwo=&hvadid=312091457223&hvpos=&hvnetw=g&hvrand=13272535874711153388&hvqmt=&hvdev=c&hvdvcmdl=&hvlocint=&hvlocphy=9005925&hvtargid=pla-434511777018)
* [Moderator’s Survival Guide: Donna Tedesco](https://www.amazon.com/Moderators-Survival-Guide-Handling-Situations/dp/0124047009/ref=asc_df_0124047009/?tag=hyprod-20&linkCode=df0&hvadid=312125971120&hvpos=&hvnetw=g&hvrand=1199873986900750588&hvpone=&hvptwo=&hvqmt=&hvdev=c&hvdvcmdl=&hvlocint=&hvlocphy=9005925&hvtargid=pla-568072973502&psc=1&tag=&ref=&adgrpid=61316180839&hvpone=&hvptwo=&hvadid=312125971120&hvpos=&hvnetw=g&hvrand=1199873986900750588&hvqmt=&hvdev=c&hvdvcmdl=&hvlocint=&hvlocphy=9005925&hvtargid=pla-568072973502)
* [Interviewing Users: How to Uncover Compelling Insights 1st Edition, Steve Portigal](https://www.amazon.com/Interviewing-Users-Uncover-Compelling-Insights/dp/193382011X/ref=asc_df_193382011X/?tag=hyprod-20&linkCode=df0&hvadid=312029822325&hvpos=&hvnetw=g&hvrand=2438131877098693061&hvpone=&hvptwo=&hvqmt=&hvdev=c&hvdvcmdl=&hvlocint=&hvlocphy=9005925&hvtargid=pla-608777008472&psc=1&tag=&ref=&adgrpid=61316180319&hvpone=&hvptwo=&hvadid=312029822325&hvpos=&hvnetw=g&hvrand=2438131877098693061&hvqmt=&hvdev=c&hvdvcmdl=&hvlocint=&hvlocphy=9005925&hvtargid=pla-608777008472)
* Just enough Research, Erika Hall
* Think like a UX Researcher, David Travis
* Surveys That Work, Caroline Jarrett
* Measuring the user experience, Tom Tullis and Bill Albert
* Doorbells, Danger, and Dead Batteries, Steve Portigal
* [Universal Methods of Design, Expanded and Revised: 125 Ways to Research Complex Problems, Develop Innovative Ideas, and Design Effective Solutions](https://www.amazon.com/Universal-Methods-Design-Expanded-Revised/dp/1631597485/ref=asc_df_1631597485/?tag=hyprod-20&linkCode=df0&hvadid=385655104466&hvpos=&hvnetw=g&hvrand=16511615246182797421&hvpone=&hvptwo=&hvqmt=&hvdev=c&hvdvcmdl=&hvlocint=&hvlocphy=9001997&hvtargid=pla-912296361117&psc=1&tag=&ref=&adgrpid=78303888226&hvpone=&hvptwo=&hvadid=385655104466&hvpos=&hvnetw=g&hvrand=16511615246182797421&hvqmt=&hvdev=c&hvdvcmdl=&hvlocint=&hvlocphy=9001997&hvtargid=pla-912296361117)

**Newsletters**

* [The UX Life Chose Me Newsletter](https://peneloperance.co.uk/newsletter/index.html) - Monthly newsletter focused on User Research and ReOps
* [User Weekly](https://www.userweekly.com) - Weekly newsletter looking at whats happening in User Research

**Pathways into UX Research**

* Academia
* UX Research Participant Recruitment (Research Ops)
* Entry-level Contract Role (eg. Research Assistant)
* Fellowships
* [Facebook/Meta Research Associate Program](https://facebookrap.com/)
* [Amazon User Research & Design Apprentice Program](https://www.aboutamazon.com/news/workplace/amazon-program-helps-employees-move-into-ux-research-and-design)
* [Google Coursera Course - UX Professional Certification](https://www.coursera.org/learn/conduct-ux-research?specialization=google-ux-design) (There is a program specifically focused on UX research and gives an extensive overview of research types, method, and walks you through the process with best practice recommendations) Also creates assignments where you build the skill of putting the learning into practice in a hands-on way.
* [Interaction Foundation Classes - User Researcher Pathway:](https://www.interaction-design.org/courses?learningPath=user_researcher) Also offer a professional certification

**Resources from related fields**

* [8 Steps to becoming a better UX Designer](https://www.webcoursesbangkok.com/blog/better-ux-ui-designer/) - Blog post (Carl Heaton from Web Courses Bangkok)