

# Research Paper Guide

This guide requires a copy of:

Rubin, R. B., Rubin, A. M., & Haridakis, P.M. (2009). *Communication Research: Strategies and Sources*, 7th ed. Wadsworth.

If you have an older edition, you will need to search for the *chapter titles* and *subheadings* given here. They will almost certainly appear on different pages than those listed. Some of the chapter numbering has changed.

## Ch. 1 Studying Communication

### Subareas of the Communication Discipline

You chose a graduate program in mass communication. Do you know what the field includes? What it excludes? You really should find out.  
(pp. 7–12)

## Ch. 2 Searching the Communication Literature

### Topic Selection

If you do not understand how to choose *an appropriate topic for graduate-level research*, your paper is going to be pretty bad. And so will your grade!  
(pp. 23–25)

## Ch. 3 Using Computers to Search Electronic Databases

### How to Search Computerized Databases

Boolean operators, search terms, narrowing the search, etc. learn how to *be more efficient* and save time. Students waste a lot of time—and in the end, come up with poor articles—because they have not learned how to search correctly.  
(pp. 52–65)

## Ch. 4 Using the Internet for Communication Research

### Evaluating Internet Resources

If you cite a poor source, you look like an idiot. You lose credibility, and so does your work. How do you know whether a resource is *okay to use*? Here's how to judge.  
(pp. 85–89)

*Continued on next page*

## **Ch. 9 The Process of Communication Research**

### **Research Stages**

“The process of conducting original empirical research consists of several *stages* ...”  
This is a step-by-step guide to *how to do research* in mass communication.  
(pp. 199–204)

## **Ch. 10 Designing the Communication Research Project**

Various *research methods* are explained here. That is, your *methodology*.  
(pp. 211–228)

## **Ch. 11 Preparing Research Projects**

### **Abstracts**

How to write them.  
(pp. 234–236)

### **Literature Reviews**

How to write them.  
(pp. 236–240)

## **Ch. 12 Writing Research Papers**

### **Quoting and Paraphrasing**

This section shows you how to avoid *plagiarism*.  
(pp. 260–261)

Following APA style:

“**Only a few** main communication journals require MLA style ... or *Chicago Manual of Style* ...  
**The vast majority** allow or require submission of articles using the style of the American  
Psychological Association (APA).”  
(p. 258)