
Foreword

When I completed reading *The Dissertation Journey* by Carol Roberts, my first reaction was, “Where was this book 20 years ago when I started directing dissertations?” My second reaction was, “Heck, where was this book even before then when I wrote my own dissertation?” My third reaction was, “Every doctoral student in our department needs to read this book.” And my fourth reaction was, “So does every faculty member.”

Dr. Roberts’s book provides insight into every aspect of developing and writing a dissertation. From selecting a topic, to choosing a committee, to deciding what research approach to use, to the actual writing and defense of the dissertation, Dr. Roberts provides clear and comprehensive directions for any student faced with the challenge of writing a dissertation. I particularly appreciate how she methodically takes students through each chapter that will comprise the dissertation, not only providing an overview of what each should contain but also offering helpful suggestions and checklists to reinforce what constitutes a good dissertation.

A really appealing component of *The Dissertation Journey* is the information provided to doctoral students on how to use technology to support development of a dissertation. Not only does Dr. Roberts offer good suggestions on how to use the computer in writing a dissertation, she provides a listing of electronic and Internet sources students can use to access research materials and articles.

Furthermore, the section that Dr. Roberts provides on the ethics of writing a dissertation is a must read for any doctoral student. She reminds the reader of copyright laws, clearly defines plagiarism and how to avoid it, and highlights the importance of understanding and observing the rules governing research on human subjects.

Finally, Dr. Roberts provides a great concluding section that focuses on students’ responsibilities once the dissertation is done and they have

graduated. She not only encourages them to share their research findings broadly but also challenges the students to use their experience to mentor others undertaking the rigors of a doctoral degree.

Returning to my initial comments, I found *The Dissertation Journey* to be a wonderfully useful tool to assist both doctoral students and graduate faculty through the dissertation development process. The work is very clearly written and addresses every aspect of dissertation writing. It is so good that I plan to have all of my doctoral students purchase and read the work. It will save them, as well as me, a lot of lost time, gnashing of teeth, and heartache.

Dr. Roberts is to be congratulated for adding this important work to the field. There is no doubt that, if doctoral students and their advisors will use this composition as a guide in developing dissertations, the quality of research in higher education across the country will be immensely enhanced.

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