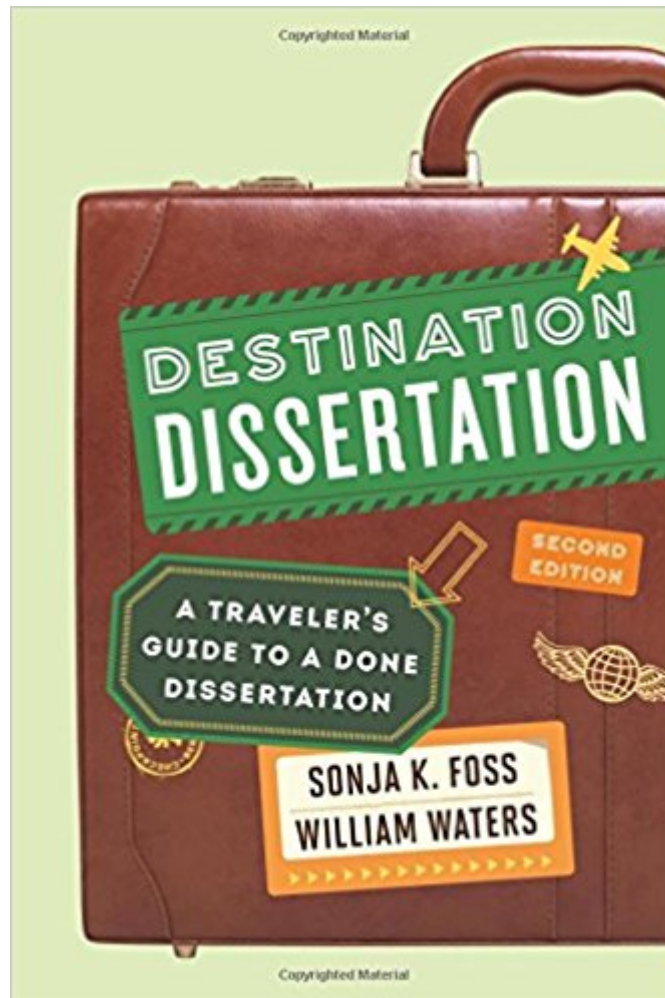




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Destination Dissertation: A Traveler's Guide To A Done Dissertation



Synopsis

Your dissertation is not a hurdle to jump or a battle to fight; as this handbook makes clear, your dissertation is the first of many destinations on the path of your professional career. *Destination Dissertation* guides you to the successful completion of your dissertation by framing the process as a stimulating and exciting trip—one that can be completed in fewer than nine months and by following twenty-nine specific steps. Sonja Foss and William Waters—your guides on this trip—explain concrete and efficient processes for completing the parts of the dissertation that tend to cause the most delays: conceptualizing a topic, developing a pre-proposal, writing a literature review, writing a proposal, collecting and analyzing data, and writing the last chapter. This guidebook is crafted for use by students in all disciplines and for both quantitative and qualitative dissertations, and incorporates a wealth of real-life examples from every step of the journey.

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Customer Reviews

With relevant, realistic, and easily accessible information, this book covers a wide array of issues pertinent to one of the most important milestones of a graduate education—the creation of a dissertation. It is an outstanding book, and adopting it may only lead to better guidance on my part, and success for my students. (Alexis O. Miranda, California Lutheran University)*Destination Dissertation* is a great addition to any course that seeks to explain the dissertation process to students. Helpful advice and guidance is plentiful and the step-by-step process of completing a dissertation offered by Foss and Waters will help students view the journey as one they can

navigate. (Mary Madden, University of Maine)

Sonja K. Foss is professor of communication at the University of Colorado at Denver. She created and is co-director of Scholars' Retreat, designed to provide intensive, focused, and supervised writing time for dissertations, theses, and other writing projects. William Waters is associate professor of English at the University of Houston, Downtown and co-director of Scholars' Retreat.

This book by Doctors Foss and Walters was an invaluable guide to me as I navigated the difficult waters of dissertation writing. It is a hand-holding guide that ABD individuals will find priceless as they prepare to write and then compose their dissertation. I found their advice on typing out the information you find most valuable from a source saved me countless hours when I began to write. (I tried to do things "my way" but found that my large number of sources made my way much too cumbersome. I did things their way and was able to easily utilize the sources I had.) One note: I would encourage students to mark on their source summaries where in the dissertation they placed references, so that they will not overuse any particular source and can easily find their reference to a text. *Destination Dissertation* is the only book you will need on how to write your dissertation. I have encouraged all of my friends in the Ph.D. program where I study to buy this book (and they have!); we agree that it is the very best guide to writing one's dissertation.

It's a very practical guide that gives you concrete ideas of how to break down the writing process so it doesn't feel so overwhelming. I used this for my Masters thesis, and it's easy enough to know what information applies more to Ph.d. authors.

With the help of this book I've broken down my dissertation into 29 do-able steps. I'm already on step four after only a few weeks and I can feel the momentum building. There's no way to really say how much time this book will actually save me in my dissertation work, but I've already halved the amount of time I expect to spend on it by following its advice. The 20 bucks I paid for the kindle version of this book was a steal compared to what this book will save me in time and effort.

Although not written in a format for every type of dissertation, this book offers an upbeat, positive attitude about the dissertation process - even for EdD students. Doctorate students at University of Phoenix start dissertation work the first year, so the order of the dissertation process in the book is

off, but we still write each dissertation section covered in the book. All of the different sections of the dissertation are explained in detail in the book, and lots of examples are given. The authors talk about how previous students had problems in certain areas and walk the reader through how the obstacles were overcome. I find myself skipping back and forth through the book when I have questions about specific parts of the dissertation. I love the book's upbeat attitude and it is an additional resource when I just need to view a dissertation problem from someone else's perspective. For example, this morning it helped me to re-write my research question. While it may not fit everyone's dissertation needs, the book provides a positive attitude about the whole dissertation process and even science students might find it helpful, if for no other reason than it approaches the dissertation process optimistically. Of note, the book does mention that the suggested nine month goal is actually longer if you need to wait for IRB approval, have to wait for data analysis, are working in another country, etc. Also, research designs and methods aren't covered, but lots of other resources are available for them (SAGE, for example).

Just on the third Chapter. But the book so far is a great read.

When a friend told me about this book, I listened with eagerness because not only did the book seem like a good step-by-step coach to guide my focus and manage my efforts, the philosophy behind the coaching was just what I needed: enjoy the journey of this process rather than focus on just being done ... "Life is a journey, not a destination" applied to the PhD experience. Yet, at the same time I thought to myself: "Another book to read! As if you didn't have enough!" Yet with the realities of not always being able to have the mentoring I need from my director, I thought that I should give it a chance. Since I ordered it and have begun working with it, I can say that purchasing the book and reading a chapter at a time is worth every dime and minute. Each chapter addresses a particularly actionable step of the journey in a short and concise manner while being general enough to be applicable across disciplines while specific enough to be relevant. The book helps you to identify exactly what you need to do in doable steps. By breaking it all down into steps that I can realistically accomplish along with a step-by-step "to do" list, I am more focused and can better identify the ideas I want to express and how to best express them or at least lay out a plan to do so. I really am enjoying the journey. I highly recommend this to anyone who is embarking on the PhD journey in the humanities or sciences. This book is like a coach that you can turn to for the focus, inspiration and clarity we'd all love to have! It helps me maximize my time and do so in a more relaxed and confident way.

I like the book a lot. I have only read through a portion of it, but the practical advice is very useful and directs you to follow specific and attainable steps. I have only used it for smaller papers so far but plan to use it for my masters thesis next year. I could do with a little less of the fluff - travel metaphors and so on - but the meat of the book is very helpful.

This book is a life saver. I had no idea how or where to start my literature review. This book has great suggestions and made drafting the literature review simple and I even have tons of left over information for other parts of my dissertation. I'd highly recommend using this book as a guide

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