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William Germano



Synopsis

When a dissertation crosses my desk, I usually want to grab it by its metaphorical lapels and give it a good shake. "You know something!" I would say if it could hear me. "Now tell it to us in language we can understand!" Since its publication in 2005, *From Dissertation to Book* has helped thousands of young academic authors get their books beyond the thesis committee and into the hands of interested publishers and general readers. Now revised and updated to reflect the evolution of scholarly publishing, this edition includes a new chapter arguing that the future of academic writing is in the hands of young scholars who must create work that meets the broader expectations of readers rather than the narrow requirements of academic committees. At the heart of *From Dissertation to Book* is the idea that revising the dissertation is fundamentally a process of shifting its focus from the concerns of a narrow audience "a committee or advisors" to those of a broader scholarly audience that wants writing to be both informative and engaging. William Germano offers clear guidance on how to do this, with advice on such topics as rethinking the table of contents, taming runaway footnotes, shaping chapter length, and confronting the limitations of jargon, alongside helpful timetables for light or heavy revision. Germano draws on his years of experience in both academia and publishing to show writers how to turn a dissertation into a book that an audience will actually enjoy, whether reading on a page or a screen. Germano also acknowledges that not all dissertations can or even should become books and explores other, often overlooked, options, such as turning them into journal articles or chapters in an edited work. With clear directions, engaging examples, and an eye for the idiosyncrasies of academic writing, *From Dissertation to Book* reveals to recent PhDs the secrets of careful and thoughtful revision "a skill that will be truly invaluable as they add "author" to their curriculum vitae.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book gives some good overview advice of how to turn a dissertation into a book. However, I was looking for the nitty-gritty practical advice - which I did not find here. There are lots of big ideas about how books are very different projects than dissertations, and high-level ideas about when a book project is worth saving and when it's worth moving onto something new. All good information - just not the low-level, practical information I was looking for.

There were a few decent points but mostly this book contained information that I already found online. If you aren't the researching type (which would be surprising if you just finished your dissertation), then this book gives you the basics in one, easy to read, place. If you've already done research on how to turn your dissertation into a book and are looking for a deeper level of info, this is not it.

Repetitive. For someone writing a book on revision, a little more should have been done here. Ultimately, it's a good book for a general overview of the editorial vantage point on publishing dissertations; but, it doesn't help that much with the actual revision.

Good, but I think this is catered to academic writing (reasonable given the title). I also loved Thinking Like Your Editor by Susan Rabiner, which is more catered to trade publishing. All in all, I think both texts offer great advice and I am taking tips from both!

This is a clear, refreshing take on being a scholarly writer. More than just giving good tips, Germano's words have given me more confidence as a writer.

This was well-written. I bought it as part of a bundle. While this was one of three books I read on the topic, I'm glad I took the time to look it over.

Product arrived on time and as described by the seller. It's a great book that has helpful and

practical information about the book writing process.

It is precise and to the point if you are revising your thesis for a book. It covers all needed areas of revision. It has helped me a lot.

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