How Do I Organize My Research Life?

A Wednesday Workshop

Bo Adams
Head of Public Services
Pitts Theology Library
September 9, 2015
The “Problem” That Calls for Organization

840 and 15,232
The “Problem” That Calls for Organization

30 pages of writing/ 3 hour course
522 pages of reading/
3 hour course

X

840 pages of writing
15,232 pages of reading

84 hours in the MDiv Curriculum
The Solution?

How Do I Organize My Research Life?
A Wednesday Workshop
Organization in Class

Image taken with permission from the Digital Image Archive of the Pitts Theology Library, Candler School of Theology, Emory University
Tools for Organization
Organization in Class
Note Taking

“If you wish to forget anything on the spot, make a note that this thing is to be remembered.” - Edgar Allan Poe

Hand-Written Notes
• Tactile Connection
• Ease of diagramming
• Platform-independent

Typed Notes
• Speed/Comfort
• Searchability
• Sharing
• Media

Key Question: What are you writing down and Why?
“As a matter of course, when he rises to leave the barber's shop, he stands by the mirror and feels his head, examining the cut of his hair and the difference made by its trimming; so on his way home from a lecture or an academic exercise, it would be a shame not to direct his gaze forthwith upon himself and to note carefully his own spirit, whether it has put from it any of its encumbrances and superfluities, and has become lighter and more cheerful.” -Plutarch
• http://www.evernote.com
• Free note-taking app, incorporating media
• Synced to the cloud
• iOS and Android Apps
Organized Reading
Reading Strategies

“There is a great deal of difference between an eager man [
[sic

• Learn to Read a Book (October 7)
• Not Every Book/Article is Worth Reading
• Some Books/Articles are Worth Reading Twice

Key Question: What are you reading and Why?
Pre-Reading Strategy

Finding Book Reviews/Abstracts

• ATLA Religion Database
• JSTOR
• NT/OT Abstracts
• amazon.com
Reading Caveats

Read Outside of the Academy
“People wonder why the novel is the most popular form of literature; people wonder why it is read more than books of science or books of metaphysics. The reason is very simple; it is merely that the novel is more true than they are.”

Stop Reading
“Do not be guilty of possessing a library of learned books while lacking learning yourself.” -Erasmus
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Her Argument</th>
<th>Her Quotations</th>
<th>My Thoughts</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Introduction: From ‘Science and Religion’ to ‘Theology and Technology’ (pp. 221-222)</strong></td>
<td>“How Might theologically derived visions of what it means to be human—theological anthropology—proceed in the face of technologies that are themselves ontological in character”</td>
<td>She is really interested in exploring how things change now that technology itself has fundamentally changed (it is ontological, challenging what it means to be human); all of this is built upon her concept of the inability to maintain ontological hygiene</td>
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<td>Like Drees (whom she cites) she’s concerned the “science and religion” debate has trumped the theology and technology</td>
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<td>She is working on how theological thinking can help us understand ontology in light of advanced technologies</td>
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<td>She agrees with Heidegger that technologies are ontological, rather than merely tools</td>
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<td><strong>Is Technology a Theological Question? (223-228)</strong></td>
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<td>Her definition of technology is threefold</td>
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<td>“Artefacts resulting from manufacturing: tools, machines</td>
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• http://www.readcube.com

• File Organizer/Web Search

• Optimized PDF Viewer

• Note taking

• Metadata generation/search

• Free to use/30-day free trial for cloud sync

• iOS and Android Apps
Organized Research/Writing

- Identification
- Collection
- Evaluation
- Presentation
The Research Cycle

1. Define your topic
2. Gather background information
3. Locate your sources
4. Evaluate your sources
5. Cite your sources
6. Define your topic

Image provided by the J. N. Desmarais Library and Archives of the Laurentian University:
Organized Research/Writing

- Identification
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- Evaluation
- Presentation
Jumpstarting the Writing Process

“The desire to write grows with writing.” - Erasmus

• Start writing early
• Write now, edit later
• Set soft, but regular, deadlines (with accountability)

• http://pitts.emory.edu/schedule
Jumpstarting the Writing Process
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Jumpstarting the Writing Process

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• Remove the hassle/fun of tools
Focused Writing
Use What's Available to You!

- Pitts Reference Librarians
  - http://pitts.emory.libanswers.com
  - 404.727.0645
  - theologyref@emory.edu

- Candler Writing Center
  - http://candler.emory.edu/life-at-candler/academic-development-support
  - 3rd Floor of the RARB Building