

## Collection of Resources on Doing Impactful Research Well

*These are resources--many from [this collection by Michael Aird](#)--that I guess are especially useful for people who don't have a ton of research experience. Feel free to check out that link if you'd like to do your own filtering.*

*Some of these resources emphasize doing impactful research, while other resources emphasize doing research well.*

*This collection is very far from being comprehensive. There are definitely many great resources not included here (especially resources from outside the existential risk research community and related communities) - feel free to comment or message on our Slack with suggestions!*

*(Last updated June 13, 2022)*

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## Getting Started

- On project planning:
  - [Project Planning Template](#) (used in the research org Rethink Priorities)
  - On generating research questions and proposals:
    - [SERI Project Proposal Instructions](#)
    - Tips:
      - [SERI Research Proposal Generation Tips - Summer 2021](#)
      - [How to Generate Research Proposals - Sevilla](#)
      - [Research - Charity Entrepreneurship](#) (see the section “Our Research Process”)
      - [Research as a Stochastic Decision Process - Steinhardt](#)
- [Tips On Doing Impactful Research - Effective Thesis, 2020](#) - “Getting Started” section
  - Has general (not specific to our program) recommendations on:
    - Work environment
    - Mindset
    - Support software
    - Finding impactful research directions
    - Orientation in a new research field

## Doing Research

- General readings
  - [Tips On Doing Impactful Research - Effective Thesis, 2020](#)

- “Research and Thinking Habits” section
  - “Further Reading”
- On learning from previous research:
  - [Scholarship: How to Do It Efficiently - Muehlhauser](#)
  - [Literature Review For Academic Outsiders: What, How, and Why - Muehlhauser](#)
  - [How to Read a Book - Paul Edwards](#)
  - Tools for finding relevant papers:
    - [Google Scholar](#)
    - [Connected Papers](#)
  - On evaluating (social science) studies:
    - [How We Evaluate a Study - GiveWell](#)
    - On evaluating literature reviews:
      - [Surveying the Research On a Topic - GiveWell](#)
- Some broad approaches to doing research:
  - Broad advice:
    - [Useful Vices for Wicked Problems \(Karnofsky, 2022\)](#)
    - [Tips for conducting worldview investigations \(Muehlhauser, 2022\)](#)
    - [Features that make a report especially helpful to me \(Muehlhauser, 2022\)](#)
    - [Can we intentionally improve the world? Planners vs. Hayekians - Galef](#)
    - [Hard problem? Hack away at the edges - Muehlhauser](#)
    - [You and Your Research - Hamming](#)
  - Advice on more specific aspects of research:
    - [Research Debt \(Olah and Carter, 2017\)](#)
    - [Learning By Writing \(Karnofsky, 2022\)](#)
    - [Minimal-trust investigations \(Karnofsky, 2022\)](#)
- Other [Scholarship & Learning posts on the forum LessWrong](#)
- Other materials in [Effective Thesis' list of resources](#)
  - Especially the suggestions on “where to find existing data”
- Additional recommendations
  - [How to Build an Economic Model in Your Spare Time - Varian](#)