

How to Think (and Do) like a Scholar

Within the university context, there are many ways to be a Scholar.

You can:

- Apply guidelines and standards to evaluating your own work, or the work of others, write a report and make responsive improvements.
- Do background research for others, creating an informative scoping document to guide implementation.
- Share your process and success with others through applying to present at a conference, displaying a poster or presenting a paper.
- Form a team, design research, apply for ethics, conduct the research, analyse data and submit a journal paper for publication.

Whether you are – writing a report, applying to present at a conference, designing research and/or authoring a journal paper – there are guidelines and practices that will help you succeed as a scholar.

Here's how! Throughout your scholarly work, select and apply these strategies.

Come on – Spin the Wheel and begin today.

Give It a Go (GIG) If you don't buy the lottery ticket, you're not going to win. If something sounds like it might be fun, or a new learning experience, be brave and try it out.

Co-Creation (CC) Many hands make light work. A team brings in multiple perspectives, knowledge and skills. If you are taking on scholarly activity for the first time, consider partnering with an experienced other.

Models & Templates (MT) Follow the script. There are codes to crack and established ways to conduct and present scholarship. Hunt and gather previously accepted / published reports, papers and presentations, and adopt their style.

Intertextuality (IT) It is unlikely that you are researching / presenting something entirely new and novel. Acknowledge and honour the approaches and publications that have come before (i.e. reference) and build-upon them. And be explicit about which aspects of your scholarship are new and novel.

Rigour & Robustness (RR) Take the scholarship enterprise seriously. Authors and presenters have worked hard to produce their outcomes. Dedicate yourself to scholarship, through putting-in time and effort.

Many Versions (MV) Published and presented scholarship makes it look easy. It is very likely that the document (and the scholarship design) progressed through many iterations, stages and drafts prior to arriving.

Critical Friends (CF) Get some champions in your corner. They will alert you to conferences you should apply to, and documents you should read as samples. Ask them to peer review your publications and give you candid feedback.

Resilience & Flearning (RF) Scholars seldom mention how many times they've been rejected and how many times papers are returned, requesting major revisions. Stand strong. Don't lose heart. And learn through errors (Failure Learning = Flearning).

