

BFA Research Guidelines

Sources

You can include a wide variety of sources as part of your research, including publications, collateral designs, novels, poetry, articles, music, movies, commercials, plays, and web sites, in other words, use anything and everything that informs and inspires the work. Please make websites your last place of research for this. Your research must include at least two major non-media sources concerned with theory that directly involves your concept.

For their subject matter, your sources should include an exploration of other designer's work, theory and practice related to the medium of your choice, and theory related to your concept. You may also include sources used to solve technical problems.

Design Research includes purchasing samples of ideas (ex - you want to make a publication, buy a lot of magazines), viewing existing ideas on location (view kiosks and exhibitions, examples of wayfinding, etc), and other "unorthodox" research methods. In addition to the traditional research stated above, you will be required to have examples of these sources as well.

User Testing

Surveys, interviews, and user testing is another section of your research. This is a requirement of all BFA projects.

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Writing

Based on your research, you must write a draft paper of your BFA statement. In it you should include a synopsis of your research, and your own personal response to what you have learned.

Bibliography and Notes

You must include an annotated bibliography and properly credited notes. List all of your sources with a brief description, which explains what the source is. You should include at least 10 sources in your bibliography. There are links for online research aides in the BFA Blog

Style Guidelines

There is a document that outlines the components of a Design Style Guides and another that outlines Findings Documents. Use these.

Citation

Everything you use in your paper and in your documentation must be properly cited and credited. The department Fair Use Guidelines are in the Articles area as well as links to the Chicago Manual of Style citation guidelines. The library also has The Chicago Manual of Style, and other references to help you properly cite your work.