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# Independent Scholar's Handbook: How to Turn Your Interest in Any Subject into Expertise

*Ronald Gross*

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#1029257 in Books Ten Speed Press 1993-09-01 1993-09-01Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.00 x 6.00 x .751, #File Name: 0898155215288 pages | File size: 25.Mb

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before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Independent Scholar's Handbook: How to Turn Your Interest in Any Subject into Expertise:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. If you have a passion for learning and need guidance in becoming an independent scholar this book is for you. By Joseph J. Truncale Even though I have several advanced degrees and I have taught at the college level part time for many years, I have always considered myself an independent scholar rather than part of the academic community. My expertise is in the law enforcement, martial arts, self-defense and physical fitness fields. I saw this book (The Independent Scholars Handbook: How to turn your interest in any subject into expertise by Ronald Gross) on for a bargain price and immediately purchased it. I have read similar books in the past but this is by far the most detailed and informative book I have read on this topic. I have always been a self-motivated voracious reader who has a wide range of interests. In my opinion an independent scholar is an individual who once he or she takes an interest in a subject they attempt to learn as much as possible on that specific subject. This unrelenting passion makes the individual become an expert in that field of study. This fantastic 261 page hardcover volume is organized into three parts with ten chapters. The first part (starting out) covers risk-takers of the spirit and how to begin doing your own research. The second part (The practice of independent scholarship: A loose parts

approach) deals with where? What? Who? And How to seek out resources for your work, working with others, intellectual craftsmanship and support for your work. The final part (independent scholars in action focuses on Alvin Toffler's journey from journalism to social analysis, sharing your work, the intellectual pleasures of your work, scholarship can be your joy, though not your job and You need not be alone to be unique. There are also some great reference sources suggested in this book. In conclusion this is a must read book for anyone who is interested in the steps and road to follow when doing any kind of research. This book will also provide some ideas and suggestions for anyone who desires to be an independent scholar. Rating: 5 Stars. (Author: Tactical Principles of the most effective combative systems). 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Dated and few actionable ideas, but still inspiring. By Abner Rosenweig I purchased this to refine my own process as an independent scholar, and in that respect it comes up short, particularly because it is so dated. However, I still enjoyed the book in spirit--it's encouraging and serves as a wonderful motivator to pursue independent work. The accounts of other successful independent scholars are still relevant today, and it was helpful to read about their struggles and successes. I was especially inspired by the stories of Eric Hoffer, Hazel Henderson, William Irwin Thompson. We all have independent interests. This book validates the idea that scholarship is not just for academics and encourages us to honor our interests by formalizing our studies as independent scholars. It helps the reader realize that, with a little extra work, we can synthesize our ideas and produce meaningful work that can contribute to the ongoing human conversation. A beautiful premise, I only wish the book offered more, and more current, practical ideas on how to follow through. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars. By Trudie I love the way this author was taught to think like Socrates!

This book is, without question, the most valuable work around for those who pursue an interest in a serious, systematic way. Completely revised and updated by the author, the handbook points to resources, organizations, and people, and helps the reader to understand the development and use of such expertise.

If you have been led to believe that scholarly contributions are the domain of only those who reside in the halls of academia, this book will show you otherwise. It is a do-it-on-your-own approach to becoming a knowledge seeker and creator, and having access to the same benefits afforded those associated with universities. Given here is information on how to design, fund and bring to fruition your project in the same tradition as independent creations like the Boston Women's Health Collective's *Our Bodies, Ourselves* (198) or Judy Chicago's *The Dinner Party*. This book is about pursuing your passions and being a free thinker while giving you the tools to sculpt those ideas into a finished form. -- From *The WomanSource Catalog : Tools for Connecting the Community for Women*; review by Ilene Rosoff. Excerpt. Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved. When I asked Betty Friedan what overall lesson or moral she would draw for independent scholars from these experiences in conceiving, researching, and writing *The Feminine Mystique*, she said: It probably has something to do with becoming intellectually autonomous not uncommonly.... We free-lancers, for that's what many of us are, have to structure a growth pattern for ourselves--we can't just settle into a professorial "role" that's already there, provided by an institution. In many cases we have to innovate, to find something truly new and important, if we want to interest editors and readers, and command a following. No one pays much for rehashed, dull, or derivative writing--unlike the recognition which such stuff can command in academe.