

## Walden Library Video Transcript

Title: Using Dissertations for Research

URL: <http://youtu.be/RhpxMBfzzAE>

### Begin Transcript

**Visual:** Intro slide

**Narration:** Before you begin your own dissertation, it can be helpful to spend some time looking at completed examples.

**Visual:** Table of contents slide

**Narration:** Dissertations can be extremely long, so the optimal entry point is the Table of Contents. Use the table of contents to see the overall structure of the work, and to identify relevant sections.

**Visual:** Structure and Pattern slide

**Narration:** Dissertations follow predictable patterns. This is especially true of Walden dissertations, doctoral studies, and project studies, which each have a basic format that is set for each program. While authors are able to customize the content of their dissertations, they have to follow the same basic structure. For PhD dissertations that is a 5 chapter format, while for DBA doctoral studies it is 3 sections, and 4 sections for the EdD.

Look at several tables of contents to get a feel for the different ways they are organized. This can help you figure out the organization of your own study.

**Visual:** Overview of the sections slide

**Narration:** Looking at examples of dissertations can also help you with your specific research topic. Looking at dissertations on similar topics can help you determine future research needs, find more resources, or locate a research instrument.

**Visual:** Recommendations for Future Research slide

**Narration:** If you are still searching for a dissertation topic, the Recommendations for Future Research area of other dissertations can help. The final section of a dissertation will include recommended research questions based on gaps the author found while conducting the literature review and while evaluating the research results.

**Visual:** Resources slide

**Narration:** Dissertations also contain a wealth of other resources you can find and use for your own study. Read the literature review to develop an understanding of the research in context, and then use the bibliography to get the citation information you will need to locate the item in the library. Dissertations also include definitions of research terms. Look for sections titled “definitions” to see references and context you can use for your own definitions.

**Visual:** Tests & Measures slide

**Narration:** Finally, dissertations can help you identify measurement instruments and locate copies. Any instruments that are used are typically named in the abstract and described in the methodology section.

If a full-text version of the instrument is included in the dissertation, you'll find that in the appendix, along with examples of other research documentation such as permission forms.

Exploring dissertations on your topic or in your program can have lasting benefits as you understand better what you need to do, and as you build your knowledge of the questions, resources, and instruments that are central to your topic.