

HELPFUL REFERENCES

(All are available from Walter Library)

The ACS Style Guide: A Manual for Authors and Editors by Janet S. Dodd

How do I format citations properly? What are the correct abbreviations for mathematical units, common chemical terms, and journal names? Have questions about grammar, punctuation, and spelling? The ACS Style Guide provides “quick reference” answers to these (and other questions), and also has chapters devoted to general topics of scientific writing. Additionally, the Style Guide contains tips about preparing effective posters and presentations.

Scientific Papers and Presentations by Martha Davis

This book covers everything from how to write your first rough draft to giving scientific presentations. The book starts with the writing process (searching and reviewing scientific literature, organizing and writing a rough draft, reviewing and revising, and final drafts) and finishes with how to give scientific presentations (slide presentations, poster presentations, group communication, and communication with other audiences). The book also covers topics on: how to change the writing style between a proposal and a Graduate Thesis, how to format titles and abstracts; how to present data, how to effectively use non-verbal communication and visual aids, and the legal and ethical ramifications of your work. Each chapter in this book covers a different subject, so searching for a specific topic is easy. The book can be found on Level F of the Walter Library and is available for regular loan.

The Chemist's English: with "Say It in English, Please!" by Robert Schoenfeld

This is a nice book that is well written and covers elements of scientific English that are often misused. It is written as a series of essays and is more easily approached as casual reading than as a reference book. It is witty and fun to read, and there are many good tricks to be learned.