You don’t have to be a collector to envy the owners of page after page of beautiful pieces – Edward Gorey’s watercolour of a bibliophile in his library; one of 240 copies of Edgar Allen Poe’s *Le Corbeau*, this one signed by Manet and Mallarmé; and three items associated with Virginia Woolf, one the outstanding Francis Dodd charcoal drawing, and another Woolf’s unique binding of *The House of Seven Gables*, made for her nephew Julian Bell. A collection well worth exploring, even if you missed the exhibition.


This claims to be a twenty-first century text book on research writing, addressing twenty-first century research issues and the particular challenges involved. Inevitably that means there is a strong focus on the internet as a research tool. The manual comes with a CD-ROM and with access to a dedicated web site. The package is aimed at college students, product brochure writers, journalists, and low-level public speakers – it cites school board and community group slide show presenters. Apart from the new emphasis on electronic resources, I found it little more useful than the run-of-the-mill guides to research and essay writing. It gives sound advice on MLA-, Chicago-, and Columbia-style citation, but nothing a student couldn’t find elsewhere. There is advice on web-site creation and design, though probably in too little detail to be really useful. As a backup text book to a real course in research methods it might be useful, though it is heavy-going and dull reading and no replacement for good classroom teaching and practical exercises on the subject.

The CD-ROM is mainly geared towards organising electronic resources. It comes with nice little features like note card that helps you organise downloaded material, and another features helps you create a bibliography of references. But it requires a lot of time to learn the system and obviously involves a commitment, not least of time, that most students would better spend on actual research and writing. In the end we all find our own way to work habits and organisation that best fit our individual requirements and the peculiarities of our research.