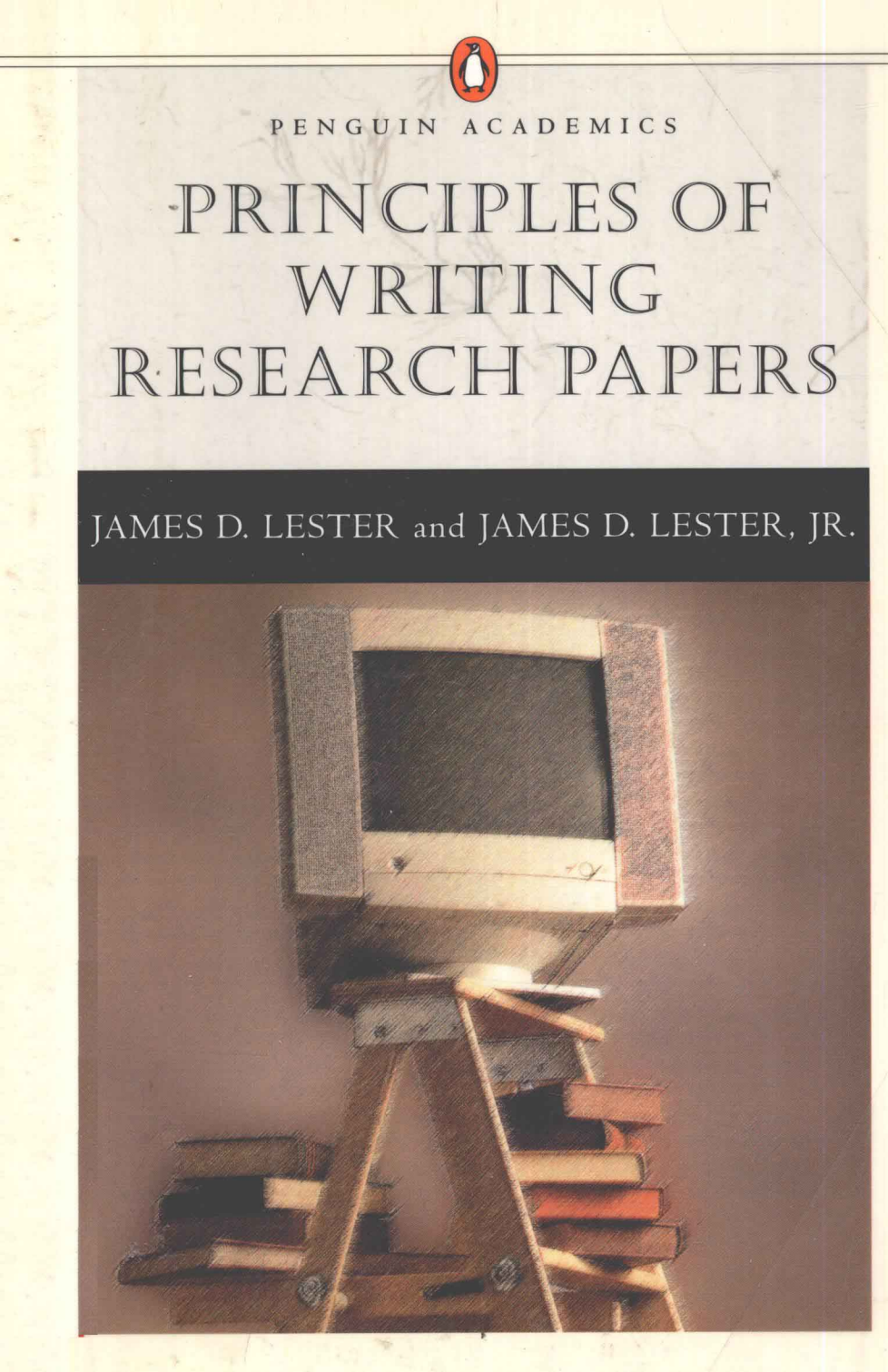

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PRINCIPLES OF WRITING RESEARCH PAPERS

JAMES D. LESTER and JAMES D. LESTER, JR.

Penguin Academics

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Citing an Internet Article QUICK REFERENCE

APA Style

Dow, J. (2000). External and internal approaches to emotion: Commentary on Nesse on mood. *Psycologuy*. Retrieved September 23, 2000, from http://www.cogsci.soton.ac.uk/cgi/psyc/newpsy?3.01

CBE Style

Ramsel RE, Nelson LA, Wicks GA. 1999. Ecofarming: No-till ecofallow proso millet in winter wheat stubble. NebGuide [online]. Available from http://www.ianr.unl.edu/pubs/FieldCrops/g835.htm. Accessed 2000 Aug 8.

CMS Style

13. B. A. Miller, N. J. Smyth, and P. J. Mudar, "Mothers' Alcohol and Other Drug Problems and Their Punitiveness toward Their Children," Journal of Studies on Alcohol 60 (1999): 632-42 [journal online]; available from http://www.ncbi.nlm.hih.gov.htbin.

MLA Style

Ladouceur, Robert, et al. "Strategies Used with Intrusive Thoughts: A Comparison of OCD Patients with Anxious and Community Controls." Journal of Abnormal Psychology 109 (2000). Abstract. 10 May 2000 <http://www.apa.org/journals/abn/500ab.html>.

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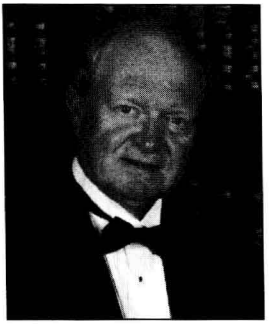

Professor J. D. Lester is a distinguished scholar of literature and mythology. He taught for thirty years at Austin Peay State University in Clarksville, Tennessee, and now holds the status of professor emeritus. With over 33 published books to his credit, he is best known for his hallmark research textbook, *Writing Research Papers: A Complete Guide*. Now in its 10th edition, this best-selling text has been used and praised by nearly three million students and instructors alike.

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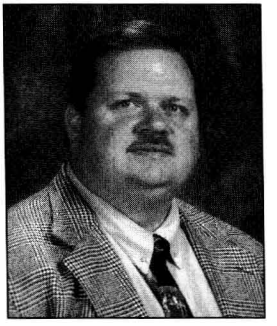

Preface

We have designed *Principles of Writing Research Papers* as a guide to research papers in all disciplines. The text features advice on the judicious handling of research materials alongside extensive coverage of electronic research. Rooted in the fundamentals of thorough library research, this guide encourages Internet searching as well as the value of field research. It endorses the written word while recognizing the value of graphics, audio, video, and slide presentations. Below is a list of its many features.

Emphasis on Writing in the Disciplines

We explore research, style, and format through the lenses of many disciplines, helping students in the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences to approach a topic in a given field, conduct valid research, and present the results in an appropriate format. As we developed the text, we tried to acknowledge the differences in research style across the disciplines: science students examine and test a hypothesis while literature students advance a thesis statement. Science students do more field research than do philosophy or history students. Science students present their research differently from humanities students. All of these aspects of writing from research are examined and explained in this second edition, which now includes the following:

- Discussion of addressing and fulfilling research assignments across the disciplines, including those that call for theoretical inquiry, empirical inquiry, and analysis for a review article.
- Comprehensive lists of discipline-specific scholarly bibliographies, printed indexes, and encyclopedias.
- Comprehensive lists of websites and web search engines from across the disciplines.

- Coverage of field research, especially useful to researchers in the social and natural sciences, including treatment of laboratory notes.
- Material on how to organize a variety of papers and reports, including a lab investigation or field report, scientific analysis, and other paradigms used in the humanities.
- Sample student papers, of MLA, APA, CBE, and CMS documentation styles.

Coverage of Electronic Research Tools

Chapter 3, "Searching the World Wide Web," offers advice on using every aspect of the Web, including regular search engines and metasearch engines, Internet bibliographies, and discipline-specific search engines. This chapter also provides advice for finding useful home pages, online magazines, and news articles; using listserv, usenet, and chat; and evaluating Internet sources.

Coverage of Field Research

Chapter 4, "Collecting Data Outside the Library," guides students in finding their own primary sources, from reading personal papers and setting up interviews to using media sources, as well as conducting research using questionnaires, case studies, observation, and laboratory tests.

Student Papers

Four sample papers show how real students from across the disciplines tackled their topics.

"The Exploration of Natural Beauty in Three Poems by John Keats" (MLA)

"The Effects of Communication Skills on Development of Constructive Interpersonal Relationships" (APA)

"Diabetes Management: A Delicate Balance" (CBE number system)

"Britain's Disaster: The Boston Tea Party" (CMS footnote system)

Coverage on the Ethical Dimensions of Research

Coverage of ethics in research focuses on such issues as honoring copyright, working in collaborative groups, crediting online sources, seeking permission to publish material on a website, and plagiarism.

Integrated Website

The companion website at **http://www.ablongman.com/lester** provides activities specific to each chapter's content, such as using keywords to find and narrow a topic, using listserv archives as potential research areas, and evaluating different kinds of web materials.

Instructor's Manual

An Instructor's Manual is available for instructors, upon request.

Acknowledgments

We wish to thank those who have been instrumental in the development of *Principles of Writing Research Papers*: Kimberly Dozier, South Dakota State University, for designing the website; the talented Longman group of Susan Kunchandy and Joe Vella. We also appreciate the perceptive criticism of reviewers Vicki Tolar Burton, Oregon State University; Patricia Haight, Fulton-Montgomery Community College; Kevin Nebergall, Kirkwood Community College; Maggie Stock, Butler Community College; and James Stokes, University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point. We thank student authors Ashley Barnette, Clayton College and State University; Michael Hook, Julie A. Strasshofer, and Loretta Wells—all of Austin Peay State University; and Sarah Bemis, Edgewood College. Our love goes to our family members: Martha, Mark, Debbie, Caleb, and Sarah.

We welcome your suggestions and questions. Please drop us a note at the e-mail addresses below.

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