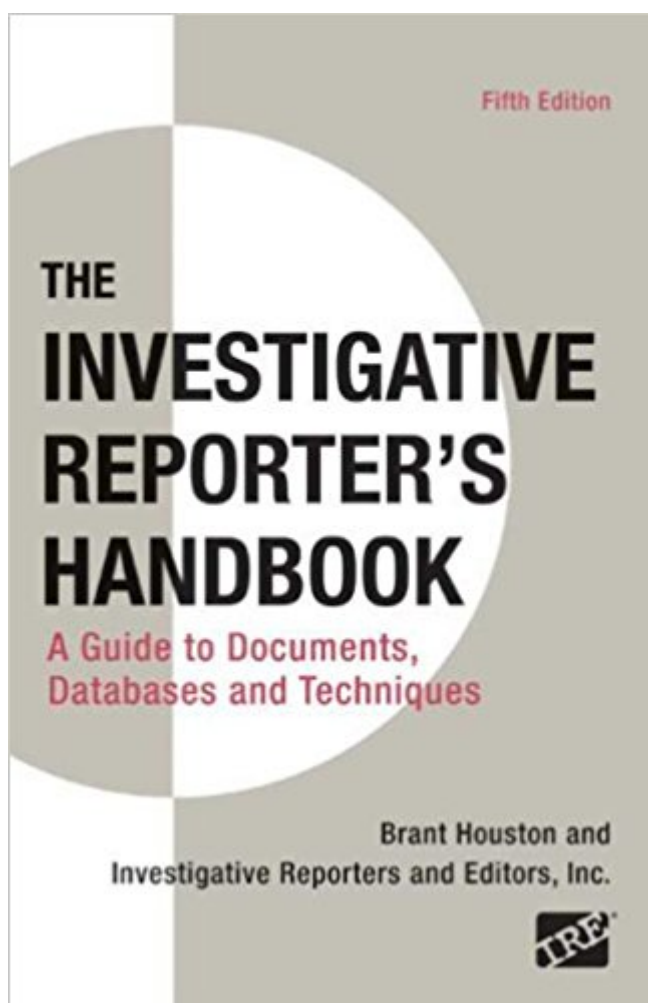


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# Investigative Reporter's Handbook: A Guide To Documents, Databases, And Techniques





## Synopsis

Published with Investigative Reporters and Editors, Inc. (IRE), *The Investigative Reporter's Handbook* is the best-selling classroom and newsroom classic. Useful as a textbook in advanced journalism courses and as a reference for professional journalists, this book shows students how to use fundamental news reporting and writing skills like gathering sources, tracking information, and interviewing to pursue investigative stories in a variety of beats — from the government and education to healthcare, the environment and real estate. In addition to discussing the latest techniques and challenges in the profession, the fifth edition is now thoroughly streamlined, making it easier to locate the resources that investigative reporters need to get the story.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Brant Houston is the Knight Chair in Investigative & Enterprise Reporting at the College of Media at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He was the executive director of Investigative Reporters and Editors (IRE) and a professor at the University of Missouri School of Journalism for 10 years. The author of three editions of "Computer-Assisted Reporting: A Practical Guide," Houston served as managing director of the National Institute for Computer-Assisted Reporting for three years after working in daily journalism for 17 years. He was an award-winning investigative reporter at The Hartford (Conn.) Courant, The Kansas City Star and several news organizations in the Boston area. Investigative Reporters and Editors, Inc. is a grassroots nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the quality of investigative reporting. IRE was formed in 1975 to create a



forum in which journalists throughout the world could help each other by sharing story ideas, newsgathering techniques and news sources.

Investigative Reporter's Handbook is simply the best guide of its type on the market. It identifies records that can be used to show readers things that governmental agencies don't really want them to know and it offers a basic methodology to use in reporting on government agencies, powerful corporations and other entities that control our lives. I have been using this since the early 1980s, after IRE backed the Phoenix project that uncovered corruption and malfeasance in Arizona. It is the best, period. I wish more reporters used it today. . .

This text covers a grab bag of techniques that investigative reporters can use in putting together an investigative piece. It offers practical advice (e.g. don't get absorbed in documents, don't get absorbed with sources, but carefully manage your interviews with sources and use them to guide your documents enquiry) as well as specific advice (e.g. problem banks, insurance companies, politicians, etc). This book is written for an American market, so when it refers to sources of information, like government offices of a particular stripe, it will be a uniquely American information source. You'll have to work out what equivalent sources you have in your own country.

I was concerned since the price was more than I am normally willing to shell out. It was a great investment. Not only is it packed with resources but over-flowing with ideas for the investigative reporter or just anyone needing to get more indepth information and how to find it.

Should be on every reporter or aspiring reporter's desk. This text is a foundational read that will open up new avenues in journalism for the reader.

We had to have for our Communications class. Its around the house somewhere, but it came in handy at school for homework. Its a pretty nice guide to where to look for information you may need ( as a journalist ) , but it also works great for every day folks who want to look things up too.

Very useful and informative book which was required for a class. Will likely be referred to later as well.

I anticipated something more from this based on the title and the reviews but anybody with a bit of



common sense and determination would get to where this leads on their own. Just okay for a complete rookie reporter. Not really worth the price of admission.

Thank you.

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