

Introduction



Visitors are often surprised when a lama comes out to greet them when they drive up my father's driveway. They ought not to be. Lamas are curious animals prone to investigation.¹

Too often, research is approached as a dull, tedious exercise where one only encounters the expected. There are no surprises expected and none are found.

I grew up in a home where curiosity was encouraged and life was full of surprises. My brothers and I would encounter new worlds as my father read us bedtime stories about the *Happy Hollisters* or took us to worlds created by Dr. Seuss.

We traveled to various parts of the United States and we welcomed a variety of people into our lives. My parents always encouraged us to investigate the world.

It was in my formative years that I learned the joy of research. My father sold *World Book Encyclopedia*. If we had a question, we would look up the appropriate entry and be fascinated by what we found. As we grew older and could read for ourselves, we would investigate the world through books and magazines.

Because we were curious, research was a joy and we anticipated the surprises we discovered.

Today, I am more likely to turn to Wikipedia than *World Book*. I also welcome the fact that I can easily access quality journals through the college databases and find facsimile reproductions of out-of-print books and pamphlets and other materials using the Internet.

What hasn't changed since the days I would sit on the couch listening to my father read is curiosity. I remain curious about the world and, as a result, research remains fun.

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¹ In my curious world, no one should be surprised that someone might keep a lama as a pet.

