

Research Writing Workshop

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Part 1

Research

Research:

Etymology: Middle French *recherche*,
from *rechercheur* to investigate
thoroughly, from Old French, from
re- + *cerchier* to search –
more at [SEARCH](#) Date: 1577 ...

- 1: careful or diligent search
- 2: studious inquiry or examination; especially: investigation or experimentation aimed at the discovery and interpretation of facts, revision of accepted theories or laws in the light of new facts, or practical application of such new or revised theories or laws
- 3: the collecting of information about a particular subject.

(Britannica Webster's 1999: unpagged)

Research: verb Date: 1593 transitive
senses 1: to search or investigate
exhaustively <research a problem>
2: to do research for <research a book>
intransitive senses: to engage in research.

(Britannica Webster's 1999: unpagged)

Research: Methodical search for knowledge. Original research tackles new problems or checks previous findings. Rigorous research is the mark of science, technology, and the “living” branches of the humanities. It is typically absent from pseudoscience and ideology.
Syn. exploration, investigation, inquiry.

(Bunge 1999: 251)

Preliminary Research

Preliminary research explores the area within which a research question may exist.

Typical questions in preliminary research

“What kinds of issues do I wish to explore?”

“What kinds of questions do I want to ask?”

Typical tasks of preliminary research

Survey an area.

Map issues.

Understand the field of inquiry.

Exploratory Research

Exploratory research
focuses on and explores
the research question.

Typical questions in exploratory research

“What kinds of questions should I ask?”

“What kinds of methods may I choose among to ask these questions?”

“What specific methods should I use to ask these questions?”

Typical tasks in exploratory research

Develop questions.

Select methods.

Three Frames of Research

Basic Research

Applied Research

Clinical Research

Basic research involves a search for general principles.

Abstract and general principles cover a variety of situations and cases.

Basic research generates theory on several levels. This may involve macro level theories covering wide areas or fields, midlevel theories covering specific ranges of issues, or micro level theories focusing on narrow questions.

General principles often have broad application beyond their original field of inquiry.

The generative nature of principles sometimes gives them surprising predictive power.

Applied research adapts the findings of basic research to classes of problems.

Applied research may involve developing and testing theories for classes of problems.

While applied research tends to be mid level or micro level research, applied research may develop or generate questions that become the subject of Basic research.

Clinical research involves specific cases, applying the findings of basic research and applied research to specific situations.

Clinical research may generate and test new questions, or it may test the findings of basic and applied research in a clinical situation.

Clinical research may also develop or generate questions that become the subject of basic research or applied research.

Any of the three research frames may generate questions for the other frames. Each may test the theories and findings of other kinds of research.

Clinical research generally involves professional engagement. In the rush of daily practice, most research is clinical. There isn't time for anything else.

Most professional practice requires diagnosis. Diagnosis is a major form of clinical research.

Skilled professional practice often requires practitioners to choose among the results and findings of applied research for specific clinical solutions.

Understanding basic research establishes the frame for wise choices and deepens the skills needed for effective clinical practice.

Many Kinds of Research

Theoretical

Empirical

Conceptual

Qualitative

Quantitative

Descriptive

Interpretive

Mathematical

Logical

Philosophical

Historical
Textual
Exegetical
Hermeneutic

Positive

Normative

Phenomenological

Practice-led

Expressive

Research Methods

Methods

Methodology

Methodics

Research methods
are how we do
research.

Methodology is the
comparative study
of methods

Methodics is the comprehensive repertoire of methods in a field.

Methodological awareness and methodological sensitivity involve our ability to understand research methods and use them effectively to answer questions.

Methodological awareness involves such questions as choice of method, understanding appropriate methods for examining kinds of questions, and awareness of theoretical presuppositions. It involves such issues as problem finding, problem selection, choice of research object, levels of analysis, units of analysis, and other research questions in any project.

References

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Bunge, Mario. 1999. *The Dictionary of Philosophy*. Amherst, New York: Prometheus Books.

Publishing History

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