



Introduction to the Research Process

OLIE®


What is Research?



Which of the following can be considered as **Research**?

- A student going to the library to “research” on a topic assigned by the teacher
- A doctor giving two types of medicines to two different patients so he can perform a “research” on which drug is more effective
- A mother “researching” on which school offers the best college education by asking her relatives and friends

We are all engaged in research



What is a Theory?

- An explanation of some property that attempts to explain its behavior or characteristics.
- Theories shape our view of the world and of ourselves.

Summary

- **We explore**
- **We theorize**
- **We change**

How do we obtain knowledge?

We gain knowledge through:

- Expert Opinion
- Sensory Experience
- Agreement with Others
- Reasoning
- Common Sense
- Research

- **Main Entry: Research**
Etymology: Middle French *recherche*, from *recherchier* to investigate thoroughly, from Old French, from *re-* + *cerchier* to 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

Webster Dictionary

Research

- A systematic and refined technique of thinking, employing specialized tools, instruments and procedures in order to obtain a more adequate solution to a problem

Research

- A **systematic, controlled, empirical, inquiry, subject-topic, problem-solving method**

Research

- Attempts to seek answers to questions
- Draws conclusions from data
- Generalizes conclusions
- Adds to the existing body of knowledge
- Improves our understanding of the world in which we live

Purposes of Research

- Discover new facts of known phenomena
- Find solution to problems that are only partially solved
- Improve or develop new products
- Discover unrecognized substances or elements
- Validate generalizations into a systematic order
- Provide basis for decision-making in any undertaking
- Satisfy the researcher's curiosity
- Acquire better and deeper understanding about one phenomenon to another
- Verify existing knowledge
- Improve practices
- Promote health and prolong life
- Enhance man's basic life

Characteristics of Research

- Empirical
- Logical
- Cyclical
- Analytical
- Replicability
- Critical

Research is Empirical

- Is based on direct experiences or observations

Research is Logical

- Is based on valid procedures and principles

Research is Cyclical

- It starts with a problem and ends with a problem

Research is Analytical

- Utilizes proven analytical procedures in gathering data

Research is Replicable

- Research design and procedures can be replicated to arrive at valid and conclusive results

Research is Critical

- Research exhibits careful and precise judgment

The Research Process

1. Idea-generating Phase
2. Problem Definition Phase
3. Procedures Design Phase
4. Data Collection Phase
5. Data Analysis Phase
6. Interpretation Phase
7. Communication Phase

