

Slide 10

Research design

This provides the glue that holds the research project together. A project design is used to structure the research, to show how all of the major parts of the research project – the samples or groups, measures, treatments or programs, and methods of assignment – work together to try to address the central research



Design types and sub-types

There are many ways to classify research designs, but sometimes the distinction is artificial and other times different designs are combined. Nonetheless, the list below offers a number of useful distinctions between possible research designs.

- Descriptive (e.g., case study, naturalistic observation, survey)
- Correlational (e.g., case-control study, observational study)
- Semi-experimental (e.g., field experiment, quasi-experiment)
- Experimental (Experiment with random assignment)
- Review (literature review, systematic review)
- Meta-analytic (meta-analysis)




Experimental Design

In scientific studies, experimental design is the **gold standard** of research designs. This methodology relies on random assignment and laboratory controls to ensure the most valid, reliable results. Although researchers recognize that correlation does not mean causation, experimental designs produce the strongest, most valid results.

Random assignments
Controlled Environments
Strict Protocols and guidelines

Very reproducible under same conditions



So why don't we use Experimental Design protocols on all research?

However, experimental design is often not practical for many studies in social science, education and business because researchers cannot, in many instances, exercise laboratory controls in natural-world settings or randomly assign subjects.




Quasi-Experimental Design

This involves selecting groups, upon which a variable is tested, **without any random pre-selection processes.**

Without both random assignment and manipulation of a variable, a researcher can't make cause and effect conclusions. [Linked to "Causal Studies"](#)

Sometimes it just is not possible to randomly assign participants to groups.

An example of a quasi-experimental design would be a study in which you examine the effects of smoking on respiratory functioning. You might have people who smoke 1 pack a day (group A)
 2 pack a day smokers (Group B),
 you have "preselected your variables" they are NOT random.



Validity

In the area of scientific research design and experimentation, validity refers to whether a study is able to scientifically answer the questions it is intended to answer.

Validity is important because it can help determine what types of tests to use, and help to make sure researchers are using methods that are not only ethical, and cost-effective, but also a method that truly measures the idea or construct in question.

There are basically 4 main types

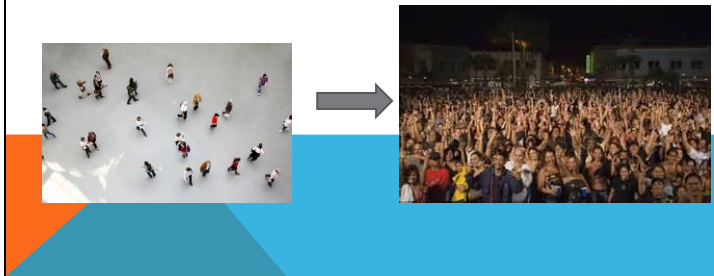
- Internal
- External
- Construct
- Conclusive



External Validity

External validity refers to how a study's results can be generalized to a larger population. In this case, validity is determined in part by whether a study's outcomes can be replicated in and across other samples, times and settings.

A study with high external validity can therefore be repeated in multiple contexts with similar outcomes.




Data Analysis

This section is where you will be analyzing the data that you have obtained from the methodological operation that you have chosen. Depending on the type of your research paper, data analysis instruments and operations may vary. Common data analysis methods include but are not limited to SWOT Analysis (Strengths, Weakness, Opportunities and Threats) which is a form of a qualitative data analysis.

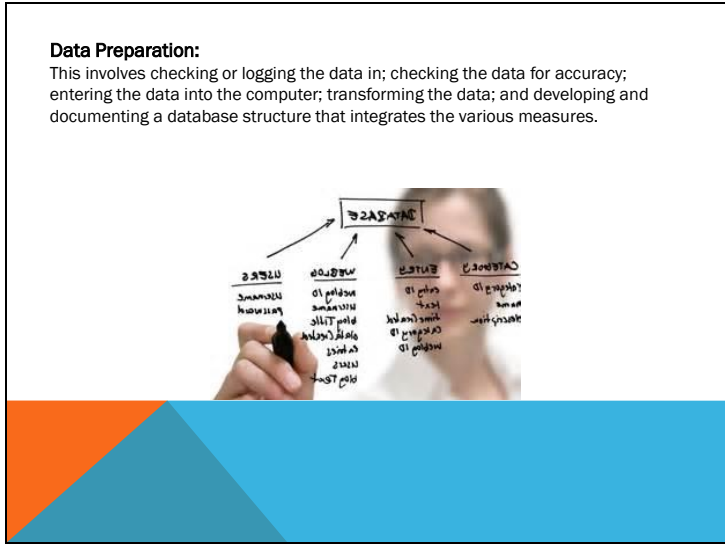
In most social research the data analysis involves three major steps, done in roughly this order:

- Cleaning and organizing the data for analysis (Data Preparation)
- Describing the data (Descriptive Statistics)
- Testing Hypotheses and Models (Interferential Statistics)




Data Preparation:

This involves checking or logging the data in; checking the data for accuracy; entering the data into the computer; transforming the data; and developing and documenting a database structure that integrates the various measures.



Inferential Statistics
With inferential statistics, you are trying to reach conclusions that extend beyond the immediate data alone. For instance, we use inferential statistics to try to infer from the sample data what the population might think.
Advertising and marketing agencies use Inferential Statistics



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Analytical

It is your thoughts, conclusions and evaluations of a topic that is backed up with logical information. Several things are vital in formulating an analytical research paper:

- You answer the research questions objectively.
- You have no preconceived notions or opinions about the topic.
- You evaluate the topic and draw conclusions from factual information from reliable sources.
- You piece findings together to present the purpose of the paper.
- You use serious contemplation and a critical evaluation to answer the research question.



Argumentative

An argumentative research paper does not simply demand readers agree with you based solely on your opinion. Instead, careful and structured research is used to demonstrate the viability of your argument by providing information that allows readers to draw the same logical conclusion. There are several things that are crucial in writing this type of paper:

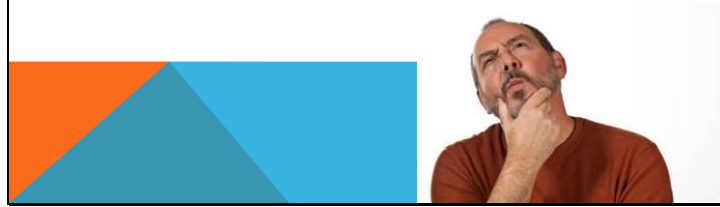
- You use logical persuasion to build your argument in order to convince readers.
- You clearly state your argument or stance in the thesis statement.
- You introduce the topic sufficiently before taking a stance.
- You use credible sources to back up your position and include information about the opposing view.
- You use critical evaluation to create a logical argument.



Theoretical research

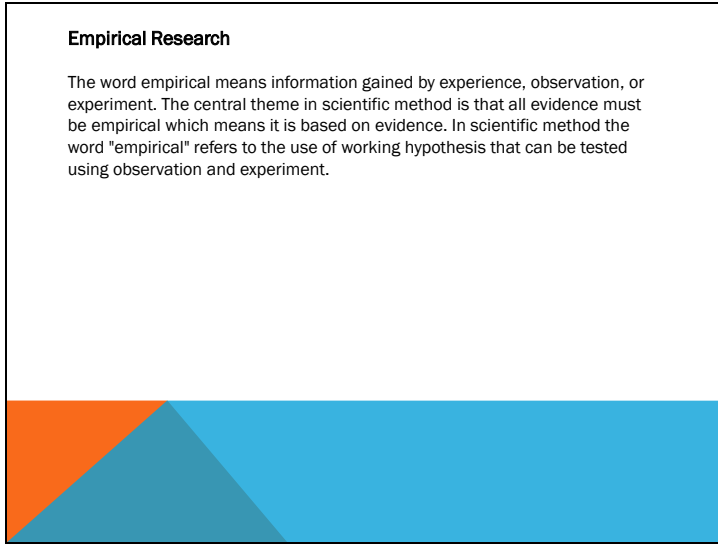
Theoretical research has its findings based on existing theories and hypothesis...there is no practical application in the research.

Articulating the theoretical assumptions of a research study forces you to address questions of why and how. It permits you to intellectually transition from simply describing a phenomenon you have observed to generalizing about various aspects of that phenomenon.



Empirical Research


The word empirical means information gained by experience, observation, or experiment. The central theme in scientific method is that all evidence must be empirical which means it is based on evidence. In scientific method the word "empirical" refers to the use of working hypothesis that can be tested using observation and experiment.



Blind Studies



Triple-blind:
Triple-blind (i.e., triple-masking) studies are randomized experiments in which the treatment or intervention is unknown to (a) the research participant, (b) the individual(s) who administer the treatment or intervention, and (c) the individual(s) who assess the outcomes.



How powerful is the Placebo effect:

To separate out this power of positive thinking and some other variables from a drug's true medical benefits, companies seeking governmental approval of a new treatment often use placebo-controlled drug studies. If patients on the new drug fare significantly better than those taking placebo, the study helps support the conclusion that the medicine is effective.


The power of positive thinking is not a new subject. The Talmud, the ancient compendium of rabbinical thought, states that: "Where there is hope, there is life." And hope is positive expectation, by another name. The scientific study of the placebo effect is usually dated to the pioneering paper published in 1955 on "The Powerful Placebo" by the anesthesiologist Henry K. Beecher (1904-1976). Beecher concluded that, across the 26 studies he analyzed, an average of 32% of patients responded to placebo.



Placebo:

It has been shown that placebos have measurable physiological effects. They tend to speed up pulse rate, increase blood pressure, and improve reaction speeds, for example, when participants are told they have taken a stimulant. Placebos have the opposite physiological effects when participants are told they have taken a sleep producing drug.

People who receive a placebo may also experience negative effects. They are like side effects with a medication and may include, for example, nausea, diarrhea and constipation. A negative placebo effect has been called the **nocebo** effect.



Nocebo Effect:

The lesser known brother of the placebo effect, the nocebo effect is the opposite. It is the harmful results from negative thought. Nocebo literally means, "I will harm."

Cancer patients that are seemingly healthy get a terminal diagnosis and all of a sudden they fall ill and start looking like their diagnosis.

There are countless stories of people being cursed by a witch doctor and suddenly they manifest the respective ailments. Or the voodoo story. In the past, people who were told that harmful voodoo is being practiced on them also suddenly exhibited the suggested afflictions.



Internet search for research papers



Youtube link

<https://youtu.be/uBbGD4XtIDM>

