

Research skills are becoming a necessity for today's information professionals, and a must for a satisfying career and upward job mobility. Therefore, we at the Sudanese journal of Public Health have created this corner hoping to contribute in advocating for the importance of research; and to empower our young researchers with the crucial skills and knowledge. The Corner will provide the reader with tips on scientific writing; hints and guidance regarding the research methods and techniques; and a handy list of useful resources and links.

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We may be writing a research, a report, a memo ... what ever we are writing we should always keep in mind our targeted audience.; if we want to keep their interest; we need to organize our writing in a logical order. A good piece of writing should at least have the following Elements:

The Introduction:

Here you introduce your work, your overall goals and ideas of your desired topic, so as to catch the attention of your readers and hopefully keep them hooked to the end of your written document.

The Body:

Here you present your ideas in logical sequence so as to help your readers understand the points you are making or presenting on behalf of someone else. All the details in regards to the topic could be written here e. g. background, the results of your research.

The Conclusion:

It is unaccepted to end your paper without a conclusion. Here you close or end your paper; and the points you would like your readers to remember should appear here.

To be continued...

Before writing your research you need to set a plan on how to conduct it and this preparatory step is called Proposal Writing. The proposal will help the researcher in building a case for new study and lay the ground for the research itself.

The Components of the Research Proposal:

A good research proposal will have the following components:

- Literature review.
- Rationale.
- Problem statement and a research question.
- Objectives.
- Methods and design of the research.
- Budget.

The Format:

To format your proposal there are several formats the common among is the following:

Introduction:

An introductory paragraph one/two about the topic/subject under the study;
The problem statement;

The rationale:

Which includes the hypothesis, the issues of the research and the importance of the results;
The limitation (expected obstacles).

Literature Review:

It includes the background information about the topic/subject under study; and the published

information or the previous similar work in the same topic/subject (local or international).

The Objectives:

Here you write about the aims and goals of the research and what will you achieve generally and specifically.

The Methods and Design:

In this part of proposal you briefly write about research design will be applied and how are you going to conduct the research i. e. the sampling for the study, the means to collect the data, plan of analysis ... etc; and the time table for doing the study.

Anticipated Outcomes/Results:

Here you give a brief about the results and outcomes you expected out of the research.

Anticipated Application of Work:

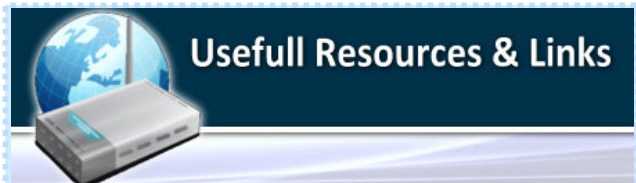
Write about how the anticipated outcomes/results of your research will be applied or be of use to your organization/people.

Quality of the proposal:

The measures for a good quality proposal are:

- Informative title;
- Convincing abstract;
- Clear research question;
- Scientific background and rationale;
- Good selection of research methods;
- Ethical considerations; and
- Realistic budget and time table.

The important last step is to put the proposal in style and layout that is reader-friendly. This can assist the reviewer-reader to absorb and understand the information in your proposal easily.



This section will provide the reader with some useful sources and links in the field of research

COCHRANE QUALITATIVE RESEARCH METHODS GROUP

The Cochrane Qualitative Research Methods Group develops and supports methodological work on the inclusion in systematic reviews of findings from studies using qualitative methods and disseminates this work within and beyond the Collaboration's Review Groups. The Cochrane Qualitative Methods Group focuses on methodological matters arising from the inclusion of findings from qualitative studies into systematic reviews.

<http://www.joannabriggs.edu.au/cqrmg/about.html>

HEALTH RESEARCH METHODS ADVISORY SERVICE

Useful website with lots of information for researchers, it is hosted by the School of Population Health in the University of Auckland

<http://www.fmhs.auckland.ac.nz/soph/researcher/default.aspx>