

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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When writing we manage to be as perfect as possible and professional. Before writing, we gather our ideas, the linkage between them, identify the issues will be discussed and its importance. To start write without missing an important thing we need to Plan for our writing process. Let check the following...

### Planning the writing process:

Planning is about organizing your ideas and focus on the subject, sequence of the issues, the purpose and the targeted audience. Using an outline is one of the best means to organize and plan for best writing.

### Description of an outline

An outline is general description and organization of the topic in logical sequence, a diagrammatic summary, or it is a visual and conceptual design of your writing.

In other words, an outline reflects logical thinking and clear classification.

### Importance of the Outline

- Aids in the process of writing
- Helps you organize your ideas
- Provides a snapshot of each section of the paper will flow
- Presents your material in a logical form
- Shows the relationships among ideas in your writing
- Constructs an ordered overview of your writing
- Defines boundaries and groups

### Developing the Outline

To develop an outline; **first of all**, you should identify the reasons behind and the purpose of

your paper, whom do you target by your writing, and the general idea of your paper

### Secondly:

#### To create your outline:

- Brainstorm: List all the ideas that you want to include in your paper
- Summarize the question(s)/problem(s)
- List the key points/elements pertaining to the question(s)/problem(s)
- Organize: Group related ideas together; place each key point/element in a separate file
- Order: Arrange material in subsections from general to specific or from abstract to concrete
- Make sure the organizing scheme is clear and well-structured
- Identify the important details that contribute to each key point/element
- Label: Create main and sub headings

Note the sources pertaining to each detail.

*To be continued.....*



To achieve your research objectives and reach a conclusion that could add to the knowledge of others and the field of your study; the researcher should select the best methods and design that suite and satisfy the research question.

### Selecting the Research Design:

There are various designs for research. To select the best feasible research design for the study that will help giving answers to the research question, the researcher must consider the following (Source: WHO Research Manual):

- Their capabilities-the researcher and his team;
- Availabilities of materials and subjects for the research; and

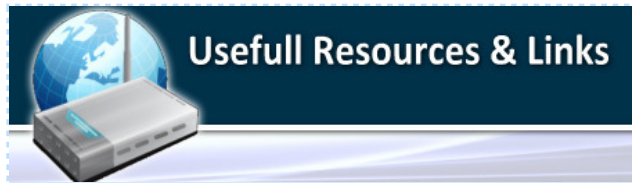
- Availability of resources.

Each research design has its place, advantages and disadvantages. And the research question could be answered by one or more research design.

Regarding the strength of the results and evidence provided, the research designs are not considered equal. Traditional; randomized controlled studies are generally ranked high, followed by cohort and case-control studies, while observational descriptive studies are ranked at a lower level. The investigators may, however, not be able to select the design that gives a high level of evidence, because it will not be feasible to do, or will not be ethical to do. In this case, their selection of another design will be acceptable and justified.

In order to develop the research design, the research topic often has to be changed to a research question, and the research question should be defined and refined so that it can be answered with precision

*To be continued.....*



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

### ACTION RESEARCH



In a living educational theory approach to practitioner research and a human existence, individuals hold their lives to account by producing explanations of their educational influences in their own learning in enquiries of the kind, 'How am I improving what I am doing?' They do this in contexts where they are seeking to live the values they use to give life meaning and purpose as fully as they can.

<http://www.actionresearch.net>

### CENTER FOR COLLABORATIVE ACTION RESEARCH



The Center for Collaborative Action Research links educators, researchers, and community members with the goal of creating deep understanding of educational problems in the school context and to encourage evidence-based reasoning to solve these problems. The Center shares collaborative action research projects and supports the development of "knowledge-building" communities. The goal is to share what others are doing to reinvigorate their workplace with the capacity to reflect and adapt to evolving needs.

<http://cadres.pepperdine.edu/ccar/>