

# 401 RESEARCH METHOD

## DATA COLLECTION

JUNIOR

DATE

The first task of a historian after he has identified his topic is to assemble his sources - No sources, no history. All historians have a responsibility to avoid limiting their sources. African history in particular, because it uses greater range of sources than most other fields of study, requires greater range of expertise from those who write it. A good historian must be able to evaluate source materials from various disciplines.

The first is the secondary materials sources, knowing what has already been previously written by other authors as it relates to topic chosen. We have to know what questions have been raised, which have been answered satisfactorily, and which story needed additional research in the future. We have to identify the gap our research is willing to fill in the field of our bibliographic research. We need to avoid dwelling on prevalent areas already covered by other researchers.

Historians need to ask questions about the sources and reliability of sources and the author's bias, and how this bias affected the writer's conclusion. Trained historians need be mindful of the publication information Date of publication, referenced materials used by

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DATE

the publisher. Reading source materials is the first task of the historian. By doing so, you become familiar with the writer's argument, his biases and the truth of his source materials.

### DATA EVALUATION (Turning Data into Facts).

Raw Data must be collected and evaluated before they can pass as "information". Data collected must be checked and evaluated for validity.

Archaeological findings and relic remains provides most of the primary evidence for history's earliest periods. Scientific Methods of testing authenticate the validity of this finding, in relation to Archaeological and written documentation. The evaluation of this data enables us to use those data and thus learn facts about the past. Historians must learn to critically evaluate archaeological data to avoid jumping into unfounded conclusions. The following questions are important when evaluating data - What kind of information was recorded?

- Why was the information recorded & preserved?
- How did the author gain access to the information?
- How did the author know about it?
- How do you ascertain the authenticity?

# DATA ORGANISATION

DATE

-- writer of history cannot jump straight to writing after he might have gathered all relevant source materials. Data must first be organised. The structure given to data, as important as its content in determining the effectiveness of the information we pass to our readers.

The organisation of Data, is actually the first step in historiographic writing

PTEMBER

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) FRIDAY 27-3-92

## HIS 401 - RESEARCH METHODS TOLOGY

### SECTION A: Long Essay ✓ (CHAPTER 1 - 5)

### SECTION B: Norms, Concepts and Approaches

### SECTION C: Introductory Chapter

#### SECTION B

##### NORMS, CONCEPTS AND APPROACHES

A) NORMS — Norms simply means rules a researcher needs to adhere to when undertaking a research writing off enquiry. Some personal factors needed to be considered by the investigator — This includes

- Interest
- Motivation
- Historical curiosity
- Educational background

\* Researchers experience through CONTACT with educational materials or issues of historical nature

\* Reading of educational or researching reports, Articles, Journals to identify unresolved historical phenomenon

\* When new events developed or past events are questioned  
Question an old date and devising new methodology  
That can likely give a different answers or conclusions  
to past events

OTES: Choice of area or topic is also determined by the quest  
of the investigator to solve a problem with historical  
antecedents

\* Conflicting report/origin of people classical Superiority of  
one people over others also calls for Enquiry.

\* Having previous knowledge of an area or people influence topics.

1936 - Opening of Pinewood Studios

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SEPTEMBER

Week

2

Jewish New Year

272-93 THURSDAY 2

## b) CONCEPTS/HYPOTHESES

- 8 am A concept is a tentative generalisation of problem under study or investigation. It is an assumption whose general ~~general~~ ~~possibility~~ acceptability is justified or well founded in relation to previous knowledge and with gathered or available evidence.

- 11 Hypothesis/concept are necessary because they sensitise the researcher to areas of relevance in the research.
- 12 noon It guides the collection of data
- 1 pm It makes possible the interpretation of data in relation to impending problem and potential solution
- 1 pm Prevents waste in data collection
- 2 Ensures collection of necessary data relevant to the study
- 3 It is ~~an~~ a tentative generalisation which will either be accepted or rejected after the analysis of authentic evidence.
- 4

- 5 Concepts generally group together those persons, events or subjects that share the same attributes.
- 6 They set a limit to the researcher interpretation of the past.
- 7 If also necessary in checking the definition of each concept used to determine whether they are relevant to the phenomenon under study.
- 8 If is generally used to interpret historical data.

2004 - Asteroid 479 Toutatis passed within a million miles of Earth

NOTE

Some

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JULY

AUGUST

SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

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## Week 38

## n Begins

## DATA COLLECTION

266-99 FRIDAY 23

Historical sources of information in historical research are generally categorised into two (2) distinct categories

- (a) Primary Sources
  - (b) Secondary Sources.

# PRIMARY SOURCES

- Includes Mainly Primary Sources e.g. Eye witness account of events reported by an observer, witness or participant.
  - This includes documents, remains of relics, oral testimony, documents (written or printed) and records kept by participant or witness to an event in form of Manuscripts, or printed (published or unpublished).
  - Documents classified in historical research include Constitutions, charters, laws, Court proceedings, minutes of meetings, Autobiographies, letters, diaries, Contract papers, deeds, wills and permits, licenses, Affidavits, depositions, declaration, proclamations, certificates, handbills, receipts, newspapers and magazines, maps, pamphlets etc.
  - Others sources of primary data include Relics, archeological findings, skeletons, tools, weapons, furniture, utensils, pictures and art objects.
  - Oral Sources and testimonies obtained directly from a participant or witness verbally or recorded.
  - Oral tradition deals with all aspects of human culture and tradition, Arts and humanities, Sciences, oral tradition, Oral Sciences, architecture, building,

1974 - The BBC launched Ceefax

## NOTES

- Geography, urban and regional planning—  
It is regarded as one of the major source of human communication.

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PTEMBER

38

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SATURDAY 267-98

SECONDARY SOURCES - This are accounts of events as usually witnessed by the reporter. Secondary sources are prone to distortion; they are therefore used by historian to verify or authenticate information derived from primary sources.

This include Textbooks, published and unpublished Journals and encyclopedias.

Procedures of historical research include FIRST  
Library work → Archival work → oral field work.  
Armed with general information from the library work  
the researcher proceeds to archival materials  
the oral field work. Where he consult original  
materials/documents (usually Government Gazettes or  
Colonial reports).

The archival materials provide the researcher with  
specific information about his research, and also  
helps in identifying relevant areas and gaps in  
the study.

Next is the oral field work - The essence of the  
oral field work is to ascertain and corroborate  
gathered information from the library and the  
archives.

Researcher should ensure he has relevant knowledge  
of language of the people under research.

In case of grey areas, service of research assistant  
is needed who must be an indigene or member of  
the community in question, and have the mastery  
of the tradition and culture of the 1946 - Cathay Pacific Airways was founded in Hong Kong  
people in question.

The researcher should try to ascertain whether  
the area under study is a virgin area.

NOTES

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# SEPTEMBER

Week 39

20 WEDNESDAY 271-94

28 WEDNESDAY 271-94  
APPROACh - An approach is defined as a manner in which a problem is solved or a policy is formulated (according to the English dictionary).

**NOTE:** Reports of historical events has no specific format. They are either organised or categorised into:

- (a) Periodic
- (b) Thematic
- (c) Chronological orders.

12 noon

- The first and most important aspect of research writing is choosing or identifying the topic of study. This process determines the organisation of the research team and the kind of data to sought for the research. It can be organised either along ~~SINGLE DISCIPLINE~~  
2 \* SINGLE Disciplinary Approach OR  
3 \* MULTI-Disciplinary approach.

SINGLE DISCIPLINARY APPROACH - The researcher here relies on the tools of single disciplinary approach, especially the discipline of the researcher.

The researcher here is mainly concerned with generating data or tools used by other disciplines on the same subject matter.

- The disadvantages of this pattern include:  
weakness of lacking collaboration — research may be postponed or lack of relevant values.

*551BC – Birth of Chinese philosopher Confucius*

## NOTES

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SEPTEMBER

Week 39

27 SEPTEMBER

INTERDISCIPLINARY / MULTI-DISCIPLINARY APPROACH (G)

This method is concerned with data generated by other disciplines and also involves researchers from those other disciplines where collaboration is involved.

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### PROBLEMS:

- 10 — Lack of conflictual relationship between researchers of different fields, they may not get along.
- 11 — Problem of selection by the coordinator of the relevant findings and discarding relevant ones.

12 noon

### SOLUTIONS:

- 1 pm — Caution
- Careful Selection
- Scrutiny of relevant materials.
- Critical analysis and careful interpretation
- Synthesis of Selected data.

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1970 - Freda Payne topped the UK singles chart with 'Bond of Gold'

NOTES

SEPTEMBER

Week 39

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26 MONDAY 268-96

## SECTION C: Introductory Chapter

8 am

- 1.1 The Background to the study
- 1.2 Statement of the problem
- 1.3 Purpose of the research/objective
- 1.4 Research question
- 1.5 Significance of the Study
- 1.6 Theoretical Framework
- 1.7 Definition of Terms
- 1.8 Delimitation/Limitations.

### 1.1. BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

- First determine the outline of the specific aspect of the theme you want to develop and how many paragraphs.
- Highlight the overall issue or area of concern
- Arouse areas of interest and concern to the reader in a simple and precise manner.
- Present the basic details first and avoid going into any lengthy discussion.
- Identify key concepts as they relate to the study
- Avoid using many technical languages; use either simple and straight-forward language.
- Citations and references are not required on this section.

### 1.2. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

- The purpose of the statement of the problem gives direction to the study
- You show that there is an outstanding problem or phenomenon that needs attention
- Make clear what your problem or issue is as it relates to your subject matter
- Make clear why your topic(subjects) need historical research

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8 SEPTEMBER

Week 3

- Be straight to the point, don't ask questions or tell stories that are not relevant to the point you are raising.

8 am

### 1.3. PURPOSE OF RESEARCH/OBJECTIVE

- Your main concern is to state the purpose and objective of the problem/phenomenon you intend to examine.
- It is important to show relationship between two or more variables that are measured.

12 noon

### 1.4. SIGNIFICANCE

- The task here is to show the and explain the potential relevance of your study to theory and practice.
- For example, to show how government, students, businesses, parents, teachers and stakeholders tends to benefit from your research.

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### 1.5. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

- To ensure you have an organised and systematic approach to your study.
- Since research is an attempt at participating in continuing conversation called Science, your words must be studied, manipulated and explained from set of theories, propositions or assumptions.
- Theoretical framework helps you to approach your study objectively and explain why certain events occur or why you expect certain things to happen.

1492 - Crew members aboard Columbus' 'Pinta' claimed to have sighted land

NOTES

- The credibility of your work depends on relevant theories that supported your findings.
- This helps in problem formation, constructing appropriate and relevant research questions, and hypothesis.



DECEMBER

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NOVEMBER

Week 47

330-35 SATURDAY 26

## 1.7. DEFINITION OF TERMS

- You may need to define or explain some terms (words, phrases, concepts or constructs) that may be unfamiliar to your reader or used in a specialised way.
- Show how you want them to be understood in your research study.
- Defined concepts and phrases must be used consistently in your research work.
- Words that are used differently and concisely in other forms are those needed to be defined for clarity.
- Try to avoid inventing new words that are not applicable and relevant to the study.

1 pm →

## 1.8. DEFINITIONS/LIMITATIONS

- All research work has limitations and delimitations. It is your responsibility to show that you are aware of these constraints in the planning and execution of your work.
- Delimitation for example, describe the population to which generalisation is made.
- It refers to delimiting conditions or weaknesses relating to time, coverage, space or time, money or accessibility.
- It refers to the deficiency encountered in the course of the study.

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2003 - Concorde's final flight

NOTES



AUGUST

SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

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NOVEMBER

Week 47

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Islamic New Year

27 SUNDAY 331-34

## SECTION A: LONG ESSAY

8 am

CHAPTER 1 — INTRODUCTION (statement of the problem), what motivated the investigation)

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CHAPTER 2 — REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE (conceptual, theoretical & Empirical review).

10

CHAPTER 3 — METHODS AND PROCEDURE

11

(Research design, population & sample size methods and approach, methods of data collection, ethical and

12 noon

CHAPTER 4 — DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

1 pm

(Responses collected from respondents in tables, charts and graphs, analysis uses relevant statistical methods)

CHAPTER 5 — SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND

### RECOMMENDATION

Findings are summarised, generalised in form of conclusion

- Summary should be concise and numbered to give readers cues of points.
- Conclusion should be generalised based on findings
- Recommendations should focus on highlighting possible recommendations for actions by parties involved or relevant for further studies.

REFERENCES — States the list of relevant source materials acquired for the purpose of the study.

ALLAH KA BAAM SA'A

1984 - 'Raiders of the Lost Ark' won an award for the most rented video of the year

NOTES

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## METHODS AND TECHNIQUES OF HISTORICAL RESEARCH

### Introduction

Historical research like other forms of research, which starts with the identification of the problem for investigation, statement of historical problem, and then the assurance of adequate historical data to back it up. The interpretation of data must also be made from the stand point of whatever hypothesis or theory the data will adequately support.

Research is a careful or diligent search, a studious inquiry or examination especially critical and exhaustive investigation or experimentation having for its aim and interpretation, the revision of accepted conclusions, theories or laws in the like of newly discovered facts or applications of such new or revised conclusions.

Method is a procedure/processed for obtaining object, a systematic procedure, technique or set of rules employed in philosophical or scientific inquiry. Method also means a practical approach to problems of truth and knowledge. Method is synonymous with mode, manner, way, fashion and system.

### Historical Research Procedures

1. Formulation of the problem
2. Review of relevant literature
3. Historical hypothesis/concept ✓
4. Data collection in historical research (research methodology)
5. Organization of materials
6. Synthesis of information

## 1. Formulation of the Problem/Selection of Research Topic

The evaluation and formulation of a problem in historical research often involve the personality of the researcher for example: Personal factor of the investigator such as interest, motivation, historical curiosity and educational background for the interpretation of historical facts tend to influence the selection of the problem to a great extent.

- It could be through the researchers experience in terms of his contact with educational issues of historical nature.
- It could be through the researchers reading of educational reports and articles in journals from where he may identify unresolved problems of historical nature.
- Historical enquiry begins when some events developed or experiences of the past are questioned. The researcher may discover new source materials, the meaning of which when interpreted will provide answers about past events.
- It is also possible to question old interpretation of existing data and devises a new hypothesis that will provide a more satisfactory explanation of past events.
- The choice of any area and topic of research is determined by several factors, for example an area of study could be picked up for investigation with the aim of solving a chronic social problem with historical antecedents.
- The history researcher might be fascinated by conflicting reports and views of the origin of a people or superiority of one community over another and hence, the attempt to investigate such issues.
- Having a previous knowledge of an area or people is very important in influencing the choice of topic for historical investigation.

## 2. Literature Review

The researcher must have an in-depth knowledge of the problem through his review of relevant literature, the researcher must review the literature and talk with experience researchers before defining a set of problems or topics for historical enquiry.

- An intensive study of literature can lead the researcher to know if the problem he is embarking upon has been answered in previous research works and thus makes such new research unnecessary. (Thesis)
- The review of relevant literature lays the foundation upon which all the feature works must be built upon. (Antithesis)
- The review of literature assist to delimit a topic of interest, gives the researcher the privilege of knowing what had been overlooked, exposed the researcher to the approaches of previous works. (Synthesis)

## 3. Historical hypothesis/concepts

A hypothesis is a tentative generalization of the problem under investigation; it is an assumption or proposition whose tenability is to be tested on the basis of the compatibility of its implication with previous knowledge and with gathered authentic evidence.

- Hypotheses are necessary because they sensitize the researcher to areas of relevance in the research, guide the collection of data and make possible the interpretation of this data in the light of the potential solution and not only prevent waste in all the collection of data but also ensure the collection of data necessary to answer the questions posed in the statement of problem among other functions.

- Hypothesis in historical research are tentative generalization, which could be upheld or rejected after analyzing the authenticated evidence.

Concepts grouped together those persons, events or subjects that share a common set of attributes, they also place limits on the historical researcher's interpretations of the past. It is necessary to check the definition of each concept used to determine whether it applied to the definition of the concept in the report. Historians make use of concepts to interpret historical data.

#### 4. Data collection in Historical Research

The historical sources of information are usually classified into two (2) main categories namely; Primary and Secondary sources.

Primary sources are mainly eye witness accounts which are reported by an actual observer or participant in an event. Primary sources of data in historical research include documents, remains or relics and oral testimony. Documents, for example, are written or printed materials. They are records kept by actual participants in, or witness of an event, and these sometimes could be hand written (i.e. manuscript form) or printed, published or unpublished, prepared for public or private use. Documents classified as primary sources in historical research include, among others, constitutions, charters, laws, court decisions, official minutes or records autobiography, letters, diaries genealogies, contracts, deeds, will, permit, licenses, affidavits, depositions, declaration, proclamations, certificates, handbills, bills, receipts newspaper and magazine accounts, maps and pamphlets, etc. Other primary sources include remains or relics. They provide information about the past; they include fossils, skeletons, tools, weapons, utensils, furniture, pictures and art objects.

- The researcher should ensure that he atleast has a working knowledge of the language of the people where the research is being conducted.
- Wherever he does not, he must employ the services of a research assistant who may be an indigene of the community and may have the mastery of the spoken language of the oral tradition.
- The researcher should have a firm grasp of the culture of the people where he is conducting his field work, taboos must be observed.
- Finally, the researcher should try and find out whether or not his research community is a virgin research area.

## 5. Organization of Materials

All data collected must be subjected to thorough verification. The organization of historical works does not follow the same pattern with that of empirical research. Report of historical research has no standard format therefore historical account can be organized either on periodic or thematic approach and chronological order.

## 6. Synthesis of Information

This stage is usually referred to as the process of synthesis or interpretative stage. It calls for considerable imagination and resourcefulness, before this is done however, all data collected should be subjected to thorough verification and collated.

- The researcher should not ignore the importance of sifting, which ensures the removal of element of falsehood from any given account.
- Synthesis helps in ascertaining the logicality and authenticity of arguments from all the sources.

- Oral testimonies are also a form of primary sources and are obtained in a personal interview and this may be recorded as the witness relates his experience.
- Oral tradition embraces the totality of human cultures for example, arts, humanities and the sciences, oral traditions deals with the environmental sciences and treats such subjects as architecture, building, geography, urban and rural planning. It is one of the major sources of human communication.

**Secondary sources:** they are accounts of events that were not actually witnessed by the reporters. Secondary sources are prone to distortions and therefore they are used by historians to authenticate or validate information derived from the primary sources, examples of secondary sources include textbooks, published and unpublished articles, journals, and encyclopedia.

- The convenient procedure for historical research start with library work and from there proceeds to archival work before going to conduct the oral field work.
- Armed with the general information from the library the researcher may then move into the archives for further enquiries, here in the archival center, he consults original documents usually the oldest mostly of colonial reports or government gazette. This document may take the status of primary sources and most be seen as raw materials, the archives provide the researcher with specific information about his area of research, it also help the researcher to identify some of the obvious gaps in his area of study.
- The next target for the researcher will be to conduct oral field work the essence of doing this is to corroborate information gathered from the library and the archives.

The quality of the output of any research can be determined by the effectiveness of one's expression; it is only through effective expression that one's major contribution to the research is appreciated.