**IMPORTANT NOTE: STUDY YOUR PROJECT EXTENSIVELY**

**Philosophy of History, Historiography, and Research Methodology: An Inseparable Nexus**

History is not just about recording past events; it involves analyzing, interpreting, and understanding them. Three important aspects of history—Philosophy of History, Historiography, and Research Methodology—are deeply connected. They work together to shape how historical knowledge is produced and understood.

In this discussion, we will define each concept, explain how they relate to one another, and show why they are inseparable in the study of history.

1. Understanding the Key Concepts

**a) Philosophy of History**

• This is the study of the meaning, purpose, and nature of history.

• It asks fundamental questions like:

• What is history?

• Does history have a direction or purpose?

• Can we learn lessons from history?

• It includes two major branches:

• Speculative Philosophy of History – Tries to find patterns, meanings, or progress in history.

• Critical Philosophy of History – Examines how historians collect, interpret, and write history.

**b) Historiography**

• This refers to the study of how history is written.

• It examines different perspectives, biases, and schools of thought in historical writing.

• Historiography looks at how historians have interpreted events over time and how historical narratives change.

**c) Research Methodology in History**

• This is the process and techniques used to gather, analyze, and interpret historical data.

• It includes primary sources (e.g., documents, oral traditions, artifacts) and secondary sources (books, journal articles, etc.).

• It involves critical analysis, verification of facts, and interpretation of evidence.

**2. The Relationship Between the Three Concepts**

These three aspects of history are closely linked and depend on each other:

1. Philosophy of History Provides the Theoretical Foundation

• Historians need a philosophical approach to guide how they understand history.

• The ideas of time, causation, and human agency in philosophy influence how history is studied.

2. Historiography Connects Philosophy and Methodology

• Historiography explains how different historians interpret events based on philosophical ideas.

• It shows how historical narratives change based on new evidence or different perspectives.

3. Research Methodology Provides the Tools for Historians

• Without research methodology, historical writing would lack evidence and accuracy.

• A historian’s choice of methodology influences how history is interpreted.

For example, a Marxist historian (following a philosophy of history that focuses on class struggle) will use historiography to analyze past writings on economic history and apply research methods like studying economic records and workers’ movements.

**3. Why They Are Inseparable**

1. History Needs a Purpose (Philosophy)

• Without philosophy, history would just be a collection of facts with no meaning.

• Philosophical questions help historians interpret events rather than just list them.

2. Historical Writing is Not Neutral (Historiography)

• Historians bring their own perspectives, biases, and questions when writing history.

• Historiography helps us understand how different historical accounts are shaped.

3. History Must be Based on Evidence (Methodology)

• Without proper research methods, history would become unreliable.

• Research ensures that history is based on facts, not just opinions.

4. Each One Complements the Other

• A historian cannot write good history without a philosophical foundation,

• They cannot understand past writings without historiography,

• And they cannot produce reliable work without research methodology.

Conclusion

Philosophy of history, historiography, and research methodology form an inseparable nexus in the study of history. Philosophy shapes how history is understood, historiography shows how history is written, and research methodology provides the tools to study history properly.

Without one of these three, history would be incomplete—either lacking purpose, lacking perspective, or lacking evidence.

Therefore, all three must work together for a complete and accurate understanding of the past.

**What is a Literature Review?**

A literature review is a section of a research paper or project that examines existing studies, books, articles, and other sources related to a specific topic. It helps to show what has already been written on the subject, identify gaps in knowledge, and provide a foundation for the new research.

In simple terms, a literature review is like a summary and analysis of what other scholars have said about a topic.

**Why is a Literature Review Important in Research?**

A literature review is a critical part of research for several reasons:

1. **It Provides Background Knowledge**

• It helps the researcher understand the topic better by reviewing previous studies.

• It gives historical and theoretical insights into the research problem.

2. **It Identifies Gaps in Research**

• By studying existing works, the researcher can find what has not been studied or what needs further investigation.

• It helps in avoiding repetition and focusing on new ideas.

3. **It Justifies the Research**

• A good literature review proves that the research is necessary by showing what is missing in previous studies.

• It strengthens the argument for conducting the study.

4. **It Helps in Developing a Research Framework**

• The literature review guides the researcher in selecting theories, concepts, and methods that are suitable for the study.

• It provides references for choosing the right research approach.

**5. It Shows Credibility and Academic Rigor**

• A well-written literature review demonstrates that the researcher is knowledgeable about the topic.

• It adds credibility by showing that the study is based on existing knowledge rather than personal opinions.

6. **It Helps in Comparing and Contrasting Ideas**

• A literature review allows the researcher to analyze different viewpoints and understand the various perspectives on the topic.

• It helps in evaluating strengths and weaknesses of past research.

Conclusion

A literature review is essential in research because it provides background information, identifies gaps, justifies the study, and helps in developing a research framework. Without it, a research project may lack direction, originality, and academic depth.

**The Importance of Referencing in Academic Writing**

Referencing is the practice of acknowledging the sources of information, ideas, and arguments used in academic writing. It involves citing books, journal articles, reports, and other materials that have contributed to a research work. Referencing is an essential part of academic writing because it ensures credibility, integrity, and clarity in scholarly work.

**Why is Referencing Important?**

1. **Avoids Plagiarism**

• Plagiarism is the act of using someone else’s work without giving them credit.

• Proper referencing shows that the writer is not stealing ideas but acknowledging sources.

• Many universities and journals have strict rules against plagiarism, and referencing helps avoid academic misconduct.

**2. Gives Credit to Original Authors**

• Scholars and researchers spend years conducting research and publishing their findings.

• Referencing recognizes their contributions and shows respect for their intellectual property.

**3. Supports Arguments with Evidence**

• Academic writing requires facts, theories, and expert opinions to back up claims.

• References strengthen arguments by providing proof from credible sources.

• For example, a history paper on colonialism must cite historians who have studied the topic.

**4. Allows Readers to Verify Sources**

• Referencing enables readers to trace the original sources and verify the accuracy of the information.

• It allows other researchers to explore further studies on the topic.

**5. Demonstrates Research Effort and Academic Integrity**

• A well-referenced paper shows that the writer has conducted thorough research.

• It indicates a serious academic approach and enhances the credibility of the work.

**6. Helps in Organizing Ideas and Building Knowledge**

• Referencing helps connect past research with new ideas, contributing to academic discussions.

• It allows writers to compare different perspectives and develop a more balanced argument.

**7. Fulfills Institutional and Journal Requirements**

• Universities, research institutions, and academic journals require proper referencing.

• Failure to reference correctly can lead to rejection of papers, lower grades, or academic penalties.

**Types of Referencing Styles**

Different academic disciplines use different referencing styles. Some common ones include:

• **Chicago (CMS)** – Used in History and Humanities.

• APA (American Psychological Association) – Used in Social Sciences.

• MLA (Modern Language Association) – Used in Literature and Arts.

• Harvard Referencing – A commonly used author-date system.

Conclusion

Referencing is a fundamental aspect of academic writing that ensures honesty, credibility, and reliability. It prevents plagiarism, supports arguments with evidence, and acknowledges original authors. Without proper referencing, academic work loses its validity and integrity. Therefore, every researcher and student must follow correct referencing practices to maintain academic excellence and professionalism.

**The 15th Edition of the Chicago Manual of Style (CMS) – Easy Explanation**

The Chicago Manual of Style (CMS) is a guide that helps writers format their work properly. It is mostly used in history, arts, and social sciences. The 15th edition, published in 2003, gave new rules for referencing, writing, and editing.

1. **Two Ways to Reference Sources**

The 15th edition of CMS allows two ways to cite sources:

A) Notes and Bibliography Style (Footnotes & Bibliography)

• This style is used mainly in history and humanities.

• It uses footnotes or endnotes at the bottom of the page and a full list of sources (bibliography) at the end of the work.

Example:

If you use information from a book in your research, you cite it like this:

📌 Footnote (at the bottom of the page):

¹John Smith, The History of Africa (London: Oxford University Press, 2005), 23.

📌 Bibliography (at the end of the work):

Smith, John. The History of Africa. London: Oxford University Press, 2005.

B) Author-Date Style (In-text Citation & Reference List)

• This style is mostly used in science and social sciences.

• Citations appear inside the text (in brackets) instead of footnotes.

• A reference list at the end gives full details of the sources.

Example:

📌 In-text citation (inside your writing):

• The history of Africa is complex (Smith 2005, 23).

📌 Reference list (at the end of the work):

Smith, John. 2005. The History of Africa. London: Oxford University Press.

**2. New Rules for Online Sources**

• The 15th edition added rules for citing websites, online articles, and e-books.

Example:

📌 Footnote for a website:

²John Smith, “Nigerian History,” African Studies Journal, last modified June 5, 2010, http://www.africanstudies.com/article.

📌 Bibliography for a website:

Smith, John. “Nigerian History.” African Studies Journal, last modified June 5, 2010. http://www.africanstudies.com/article.

**3. Other Important Features**

• New rules for capital letters, punctuation, and abbreviations.

• How to format tables, pictures, and graphs in research.

**Why is the 15th Edition Important?**

✅ It helps writers cite sources correctly.

✅ It prevents plagiarism (copying someone’s work without credit).

✅ It makes academic writing clear and professional.

✅ It is used by students, researchers, and publishers.

Conclusion

The Chicago 15th edition is a simple but detailed guide for writing and citing sources correctly. It provides two ways to reference (footnotes or in-text citations) and includes new rules for online sources.

**Understanding Chicago Manual of Style (15th Edition) Citations in Simple Terms**

Referencing in Chicago 15th edition has three types of citations:

1. Full Note Citation → This is the first time you cite a source in your work. It provides full details at the bottom of the page (footnote) or at the end of a chapter (endnote).

2. Short Note Citation → This is used when you refer to the same source again in your work. It is a shorter version of the full note.

3. Bibliography Entry → This is a full list of all sources used in the research, placed at the end of the work in alphabetical order.

Now, let us explain with Nigerian names and realistic examples in simple English.

**A. Book with One Author**

👉 Example: A book written by Chinwe Okonkwo titled The History of Nigeria published in Lagos by University of Lagos Press in 2005.

📌 Full Note (First time you cite it):

¹Chinwe Okonkwo, The History of Nigeria (Lagos: University of Lagos Press, 2005), 45.

📌 Short Note (For later citations):

²Okonkwo, The History of Nigeria, 45.

📌 Bibliography Entry (Final list at the end of work):

Okonkwo, Chinwe. The History of Nigeria. Lagos: University of Lagos Press, 2005.

**B. Book with Two Authors**

👉 Example: A book written by Bola Adeyemi and Musa Danladi titled The Politics of Nigeria, published in Ibadan by Ibadan University Press in 2010.

📌 Full Note:

¹Bola Adeyemi and Musa Danladi, The Politics of Nigeria (Ibadan: Ibadan University Press, 2010), 67.

📌 Short Note:

²Adeyemi and Danladi, The Politics of Nigeria, 67.

📌 Bibliography Entry:

Adeyemi, Bola, and Musa Danladi. The Politics of Nigeria. Ibadan: Ibadan University Press, 2010.

**C. Book with Three Authors**

👉 Example: A book written by Chidi Nwosu, Hauwa Ali, and Segun Ojo titled Nigeria’s Economic Growth, published in Enugu by Enugu Press Ltd in 2015.

📌 Full Note:

¹Chidi Nwosu, Hauwa Ali, and Segun Ojo, Nigeria’s Economic Growth (Enugu: Enugu Press Ltd, 2015), 89.

📌 Short Note:

²Nwosu, Ali, and Ojo, Nigeria’s Economic Growth, 89.

📌 Bibliography Entry:

Nwosu, Chidi, Hauwa Ali, and Segun Ojo. Nigeria’s Economic Growth. Enugu: Enugu Press Ltd, 2015.

**D. Book with Four or More Authors**

👉 Example: A book written by Ahmed Yusuf, Joy Okeke, Emeka Obi, and Fatima Bello titled Modern Nigerian Society, published in Abuja by National Press in 2020.

📌 Full Note:

¹Ahmed Yusuf et al., Modern Nigerian Society (Abuja: National Press, 2020), 112.

📌 Short Note:

²Yusuf et al., Modern Nigerian Society, 112.

📌 Bibliography Entry:

Yusuf, Ahmed, Joy Okeke, Emeka Obi, and Fatima Bello. Modern Nigerian Society. Abuja: National Press, 2020.

📌 Note: In the full note and short note, “et al.” (which means “and others”) is used for four or more authors, but in the bibliography, all names are listed.

**E. Journal Article with One Author**

👉 Example: An article written by Ibrahim Sule titled “The Impact of Colonial Rule in Northern Nigeria”, published in Journal of African Studies, Vol. 25, No. 2 (2018), pages 30-45.

📌 Full Note:

¹Ibrahim Sule, “The Impact of Colonial Rule in Northern Nigeria,” Journal of African Studies 25, no. 2 (2018): 34.

📌 Short Note:

²Sule, “The Impact of Colonial Rule in Northern Nigeria,” 34.

📌 Bibliography Entry:

Sule, Ibrahim. “The Impact of Colonial Rule in Northern Nigeria.” Journal of African Studies 25, no. 2 (2018): 30–45.

**F. Journal Article with Two Authors**

👉 Example: An article written by Oluchi Uche and Usman Garba titled “Democracy in Nigeria”, published in African Political Review, Vol. 12, No. 3 (2017), pages 50-65.

📌 Full Note:

¹Oluchi Uche and Usman Garba, “Democracy in Nigeria,” African Political Review 12, no. 3 (2017): 56.

📌 Short Note:

²Uche and Garba, “Democracy in Nigeria,” 56.

📌 Bibliography Entry:

Uche, Oluchi, and Usman Garba. “Democracy in Nigeria.” African Political Review 12, no. 3 (2017): 50–65.

**G. Journal Article with Three Authors**

👉 Example: An article written by David Obi, Amina Lawal, and Hassan Tijani titled “Climate Change in West Africa”, published in International Journal of Environmental Studies, Vol. 19, No.

1 (2019), pages 70-85.

📌 Full Note:

¹David Obi, Amina Lawal, and Hassan Tijani, “Climate Change in West Africa,” International Journal of Environmental Studies 19, no. 1 (2019): 78.

📌 Short Note:

²Obi, Lawal, and Tijani, “Climate Change in West Africa,” 78.

📌 Bibliography Entry:

Obi, David, Amina Lawal, and Hassan Tijani. “Climate Change in West Africa.” International Journal of Environmental Studies 19, no. 1 (2019): 70–85.

**H. Journal Article with Four or More Authors**

👉 Example: An article written by Peter Okoro, Nneka Ajayi, Mustapha Ibrahim, and Joy Chukwuma titled “Education and Development in Nigeria”, published in Nigerian Journal of Development Studies, Vol. 22, No. 4 (2020), pages 100-120.

📌 Full Note:

¹Peter Okoro et al., “Education and Development in Nigeria,” Nigerian Journal of Development Studies 22, no. 4 (2020): 110.

📌 Short Note:

²Okoro et al., “Education and Development in Nigeria,” 110.

📌 Bibliography Entry:

Okoro, Peter, Nneka Ajayi, Mustapha Ibrahim, and Joy Chukwuma. “Education and Development in Nigeria.” Nigerian Journal of Development Studies 22, no. 4 (2020): 100–120.

Final Notes

• Full notes are detailed and appear in footnotes or endnotes.

• Short notes are used after the first citation to avoid repetition.

• Bibliography entries are listed alphabetically at the end of the work.

**Historical Writing Approaches**

**A. Descriptive/Narrative Approach of Historical Writing**

• This approach focuses on telling the story of past events in a clear and detailed way.

• It presents history as a chronological sequence of events, describing what happened, when, and where without deep analysis.

• Historians using this method aim to make history engaging and easy to understand by presenting facts, characters, and events like a story.

• It is often used in traditional historical writing, biographies, and chronicles.

📌 Example: A historian writing about Nigeria’s independence in 1960 may describe how political leaders negotiated with Britain, the role of nationalists, and the celebrations that followed without analyzing the deeper causes and effects.

**B. Analytical/Critical Approach of Historical Writing**

• This approach goes beyond describing events; it examines the causes, effects, and significance of historical events.

• It questions why events happened, what factors influenced them, and how they shaped the present.

• It is used in modern historical research, where historians interpret evidence, compare different sources, and challenge existing narratives.

• Historians in this approach often use theories, arguments, and multiple perspectives to provide a deeper understanding.

📌 Example: Instead of just describing Nigeria’s independence in 1960, a critical historian may analyze how colonial policies, nationalism, and global politics influenced the process, and whether Nigeria was truly free after independence.

Conclusion

The descriptive approach focuses on what happened, while the analytical approach focuses on why and how it happened. Both are important in historical writing, but modern historians prefer the analytical approach to provide deeper insights.

**Short Notes on Research Components**

**A. Statement of the Problem**

• The statement of the problem explains the issue or gap in knowledge that the research is trying to solve.

• It highlights why the study is necessary and what specific problem needs investigation.

• It should be clear, specific, and supported by evidence (such as past studies, statistics, or real-life examples).

📌 Example: If researching intergroup conflicts in Nigeria, the problem statement could explain how conflicts continue despite peace efforts and why understanding their impact is necessary for long-term solutions.

**B. Aim and Objectives**

• The aim is the overall goal of the research. It describes what the researcher hopes to achieve.

• Objectives are the specific steps taken to achieve the aim. They break the research into clear, focused questions or tasks.

📌 Example:

👉 Aim: To examine the impact of violent conflicts on intergroup relations in Nigeria.

👉 Objectives:

1. To identify the causes of violent conflicts.

2. To analyze how conflicts affect social and economic relationships.

3. To suggest possible solutions for peaceful coexistence.

**C. Scope**

• The scope defines the boundaries of the research—what will be included and what will not.

• It helps narrow the focus so that the study is manageable and relevant.

• It can include time period, location, and specific themes.

📌 Example: A study on intergroup conflicts in Jos North LGA from 2001–2023 focuses on one location and a specific time frame, rather than all conflicts in Nigeria.

Conclusion

• The problem statement identifies the research issue.

• The aim and objectives define what the study will achieve.

• The scope sets limits to keep the research focused and clear.