
Unit 10: Research Writing

Required Reading

Dawson, C. (2015) Projects in Computing and Information Systems: A Student's Guide. Harlow: Pearson.

- Chapter 8.

Summary

Chapter 8 of the referenced book discusses key principles and strategies for conducting effective academic research. It emphasizes the importance of developing a clear research question, selecting appropriate methodologies, and critically evaluating sources. The chapter also highlights common challenges researchers face, such as bias and data reliability, while offering practical solutions. Additionally, it provides guidance on organizing research findings and presenting them coherently in written form. The content is geared toward students and researchers aiming to strengthen their research skills and produce high-quality academic work.

Reflection

This chapter offers a well-structured and insightful overview of the research process, making it a useful resource for both novice and experienced researchers. The emphasis on critical thinking and methodological rigor is particularly valuable, as it encourages a disciplined approach to research. However, some sections could benefit from more detailed examples or case studies to illustrate complex concepts. Despite this, the chapter effectively balances theory with practical advice, making it a helpful guide for anyone looking to refine their research and writing skills.

Mayyas, F. & Alzoubi, K. (2022) Awareness and knowledge of manuscript writing and research integrity: A cross sectional survey among graduate students.

Summary

The study titled "Awareness and Knowledge of Manuscript Writing and Research Integrity: A Cross-Sectional Survey Among Graduate Students" explores the level of understanding and awareness that graduate students have regarding manuscript writing and research integrity. Using a cross-sectional survey approach, the research assesses students' familiarity with key aspects of scholarly writing, ethical considerations, and responsible research practices. The findings indicate varying levels of knowledge, with some students demonstrating a strong grasp of academic integrity while others exhibit gaps in their understanding. The study highlights the need for enhanced educational initiatives to improve awareness of research ethics and proper manuscript preparation, ensuring that future researchers uphold high academic standards.

Reflection

This study underscores the importance of instilling a solid foundation in research integrity and manuscript writing among graduate students. The observed gaps in awareness suggest that formal training programs or workshops may be necessary to bridge these deficiencies. Ethical research practices are critical for maintaining credibility and trust in academia, and without adequate knowledge, students may unintentionally engage in questionable practices. The research prompts a deeper reflection on the role of academic institutions in fostering ethical scholarship and calls for a proactive approach in integrating research ethics education into graduate curricula.

Stewart, O.G. (2023) Using digital media in the classroom as writing platforms for multimodal authoring, publishing, and reflecting.

Summary

The paper explores the integration of digital media in classrooms as a tool for multimodal authoring, publishing, and reflection. It discusses how digital platforms enhance student engagement, creativity, and collaboration by allowing them to express ideas through various formats, including text, images, videos, and interactive content. The study highlights the benefits of digital tools in fostering deeper learning experiences, encouraging students to take ownership of their work, and facilitating more meaningful peer interactions. Additionally, it addresses challenges such as accessibility, digital literacy, and the need for educators to adapt their teaching strategies to maximize the potential of these technologies.

Reflection

Reflecting on this topic, it is evident that digital media has transformed traditional writing and learning practices, making them more dynamic and interactive. The ability for students to create and publish multimodal content not only enhances their writing skills but also prepares them for a media-rich world. However, effective implementation requires thoughtful planning, training, and support for both students and educators. The discussion in the document emphasizes the importance of balancing technology use with critical thinking and creativity, ensuring that digital tools serve as enablers rather than distractions in the learning process.

Heng, L. (2011) Qualitative Research on Educational Technology: Philosophies, Methods and Challenges. International Journal of Education 3(2).

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Jeffrey R. Wilson. (2021) Academic Writing. Harvard University.

Summary

The book explores various statistical analyses used in academic research, focusing on methods such as correlation matrices, descriptive statistics, t-tests, and ANOVA. It provides a structured approach to understanding data relationships, measuring statistical significance, and drawing conclusions from quantitative research. The discussion includes detailed explanations of how each statistical method is applied, the assumptions underlying them, and their relevance in different research contexts. Additionally, the document highlights the importance of accurate data interpretation and how statistical results influence decision-making and theoretical developments in academic disciplines.

Reflection

Reflecting on the book, it becomes evident that statistical analysis plays a crucial role in ensuring the reliability and validity of research findings. The structured approach to understanding various statistical methods reinforces the need for researchers to carefully

select the appropriate tests based on their data and research questions. The discussion on assumptions and interpretations is particularly insightful, as it emphasizes the potential pitfalls of misusing statistical tools. This reflection underscores the significance of developing strong analytical skills and a critical mindset when engaging in academic research to produce meaningful and credible results.

Texas AM University. (n.d.) Research Papers.

Summary

The website from the Texas A&M University Writing Center provides a comprehensive guide for writing research papers. It covers essential steps such as selecting a topic, conducting research, organizing ideas, drafting, and revising. The guide emphasizes the importance of credible sources, proper citation, and clarity in writing. It also offers tips for avoiding common pitfalls, like poor structure or weak thesis statements. The resource is designed to help students navigate the research paper process effectively, from initial planning to final edits.

Reflection

This guide is a valuable resource for students at any stage of the research paper process. The clear, structured advice makes complex tasks—like synthesizing research or refining a thesis—more manageable. I appreciate how it balances general writing principles with specific strategies, such as outlining and citation. However, while the guide is thorough, incorporating real student examples or interactive elements could enhance its practicality. Overall, it serves as a reliable starting point for anyone looking to improve their academic writing skills.

Additional Reading

Farquhar J D. (2012) Case Study Research for Business. Sage.

- Chapter 8.

Dawson, C. (2015) Projects in Computing and Information Systems: A Student's Guide. Harlow: Pearson.

- Chapter 9.

Kitchin, R. & Fuller, D. (2005) The Academic's Guide to Publishing. London: Sage.

- Chapters 1, 6, and 7.

Urban, T. (2016) TEDTalk: Inside the mind of a master procrastinator.