



FINAL YEAR RESEARCH PROJECT BY DR.IR. FRED KAGGWA(PHD)

Lecture One

RESEARCH OVERVIEW

Research: involves “**systematic investigation**”.

Search again

According to the Advanced Learners Dictionary, Research is defined as “***a careful investigation or inquiry specially through search for new facts in any branch of knowledge.***”

Oxford Learners Dictionaries defines research as “**a careful study of a subject, especially in order to discover new facts or information about it**”.

RESEARCH OVERVIEW

Redman and Mory define research as *“a systematized effort to gain new knowledge”*.

It may be a movement from the known to unknown.

It involves inquisitiveness, curiosity into the unknown.

Research is the contributor to the existing stock of knowledge.

A research mind is an inquiring mind, always searching for the unknown, explanations, interventions, causes, outcomes, etc.

RESEARCH OVERVIEW

Research has 2 major constituents.

- **Discovery** (Finding something previously unknown)
- **Improvement** (producing something better).

Therefore Research can conclusively be defined as *“a systematic collection, analysis and interpretation of data to answer a certain question or solve a problem”*

WHY RESEARCH

- ❑ New information
- ❑ Supplement on existing knowledge
- ❑ Challenge the existing information
- ❑ Most importantly helps to generate solutions to a problem

Objectives of Research

- ❑ The main purpose of research is *to discover answers to questions through the application of scientific procedures.*
- ❑ *To find out the truth which is hidden and which has not been discovered as yet.*

YOU

❑ Before you fully embark on your final year research project, you should answer this question.

❑ Who are you?

- Your expertise/interests
- Your career/life goals
- Your position/resources

Your proposal should fit into your life plans

PROPOSAL BASICS

- ❑ Write to the reviewers/readers (not to me and not to yourself)
- ❑ Your proposal will be judged by the reviewers/readers
- ❑ Reviewers/readers want to know four things:
 - What is it about (the research objective)?
 - How will you do it (accomplish the objective)?
 - Can you do it (you and your facilities/resources)?
 - Is it worth doing?
- ❑ Basically the proposal needs to convey this.

THE RESEARCH TOPIC

- It must be research
- It must not have been done before
- It must be significant
- There must be a higher than probability zero that you can do it
- It must lend itself to a viable research plan
- You must have the facilities to accomplish the research
- It should fit into your interests

THE GROUND WORK

- ❑ Remember we said, the research topic should be in your area of interest.
- ❑ Do you know in your field or area of interest:
 - What is the current state-of-the-art (concerning that topic)
 - Who are the top ten researchers in that area
 - What they are doing right now
 - Where they get their funding
 - What they consider to be the key research issues
 - Who would likely review your proposal
 - How much money is available for a grant/what the grant opportunities are

WHAT RESEARCH IS

- ❑ Research is the process of finding out something that we (everyone) don't already know.
- ❑ Scientific research builds upon the extant knowledge base and it is methodical, repeatable and verifiable
 - Methodical means that you can specify, in advance, a procedure to accomplish your stated objective

Question: What exactly will your research contribute to the knowledge base?

THE RESEARCH OBJECTIVE

- ❖ The research objective is a concise statement of what you intend to find out that we don't already know

- ❖ This is probably the hardest part of the proposal

- ❖ We shall however come back to it Later

THE BASIC FINAL YEAR IT MINI PROJECT PROPOSAL CONTENTS

- ❑ Chapter One
- ❑ Chapter Two
- ❑ Chapter Three
- ❑ References
- ❑ Appendices
- ❑ Time framework
- ❑ Explanatory Notes
- ❑ Instruments

PROJECT PROPOSAL CONTENTS

Chapter One

- ☐ ***Title/Topic***
- ☐ ***Background/Introduction***
- ☐ ***Research problem/statement of the problem***
- ☐ ***Area of study***
- ☐ ***Scope (where applicable)***
- ☐ ***General Objective/Aim/Purpose***
- ☐ ***Specific Objectives***
- ☐ ***Hypotheses***
- ☐ ***Research Questions (where applicable)***
- ☐ ***Significance/ justification/rationale of the study***
- ☐ ***Theoretical/Conceptual/Analytical Framework***

PROJECT PROPOSAL CONTENTS

□ Chapter Two

□ *Literature Review*

□ Chapter Three

□ *Methodology*

Note:

□ **Length of proposal** For Bachelor's degree -up to 15 pages and diploma up to 10 pages, excluding references and appendices. NB. All the proposals must be in 1.5 spacing and in Times New Roman style, font size 12. Paper margins have to be 72pt –top and bottom and 90pt –left and right.

TASK ONE

☐ **Identify about three research areas of interest for which you have expertise in using different tools**

☐ *For each identified area, come up with a researchable topic (research title) with qualities of what has been discussed.*

☐ *Clearly state in bullets the new things that need to be worked upon*

☐ *These will be reviewed next week in class*