# Research Methods Res 800

Research Reports



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#### What We Will Cover in This Section

- What is a research report.
- Anatomy of a research report.
- Kinds of research reports.
- Sources.



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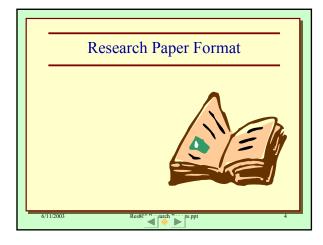
## What is a Research Report?

A formal document that presents the results of some empirical study.

- Usually peer reviewed.
- Usually published.
- Usually presents original research.
- Has a highly structured format.

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#### Abstract

- Summarizes the research report in 100-150 words.
- Lets the reader decide if the study is of interest.
- Generally summarizes
  - IntroductionMethod

  - Results
  - Discussion.

· May over simplify.

## Introduction

- Describes the specific problem being studied.
- Summarizes previous research.
- Describes the basic research strategy.
- Describes the research hypothesis.

#### Method

- Describes in detail how the study was conducted.
  - Participants.
  - Apparatus.
  - Manipulations.
  - Measurement tools.
  - Procedure.
- Should be so detailed that the reader could replicate the study.

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#### Results

- Describes the data collected, any statistical analyses, and the conclusions drawn from the statistical analyses.
- The most difficult section to understand.

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#### Discussion

- Summarizes the results, presents the implications of the data and may include a critique of the study.
  - Includes alternative interpretations of the data.
  - Describes the limitations of the study.
  - May suggest further research.

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### Primary Research

- This report summarizes the research done by the authors.
  - Typically summarizes a single research project.
  - Usually the only report; it is unethical to report the same study in several publications.
  - Successful replications are rarely published.

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#### Literature Review

- This report summarizes all of the research done on a particular topic.
  - Typically focus on a specific area.
  - Review what is known and what is not known in the area.
  - Very good source of information on a specific topic area.

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## Theoretical Paper

- This is a publication that develops a theoretical explanation for a some particular area.
  - Typically the authors support their theory with data from primary research.
  - Typically authors describe why their theory is better than other theories.

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#### Meta Analysis

- A research report that summarizes a set of statistical procedures for combining the results of a number of studies.
  - Provides a general assessment of the relationship between similar variables.
  - The focus is on statistical data, not conceptual information.

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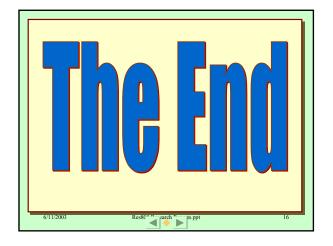
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#### Assignment

Be prepared to discuss and hand in pages 8-10 of the study guide. These are questions about the article, *Teachers in Bars: From Professional to Personal Self.* It is on electronic reserve.

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