

## Glossary of Research Terms

No	Term	Definition / Explanation
<b>A</b>		
01	<b>Abstract</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A brief overview of a research study</li> <li>▪ A clear, concise summary that communicates the essential information about the study</li> </ul>
02	<b>Academic integrity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Academic integrity is the commitment to and demonstration of honest and moral behavior in an academic setting</li> <li>▪ Moral code or ethical policy of academia</li> <li>▪ Upholding the academic honesty policies set forth by the university</li> </ul>
03	<b>Academic papers</b>	Scholarly materials like books and book reports, essays, research papers/articles, conference papers, academic journals, dissertation and thesis (written to obtain an advanced degree of a college or university), abstracts (short summary of a long document), explication (work which explains part of a particular work)
04	<b>Academic writing style</b>	Academic writing refers to a style of expression that researchers use to define the intellectual boundaries of their discipline and specific areas of expertise
05	<b>Action Research</b>	A type of research focused on a specific local problem and resulting in an action plan to address the problem
06	<b>Analysis</b>	Method of organizing, sorting, and scrutinizing data in such a way that research question can be answered or meaningful inferences can be drawn
07	<b>APA style</b>	APA stands for American Psychological Association which is a writing style and format for academic documents such as scholarly journal articles, books, and research reports. The style guide is titled 'Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association'
08	<b>Assumption</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ An assumption is an unexamined belief</li> <li>▪ Basic principles that are true on the basis of logic or reason, without proof or verification</li> <li>▪ Any important fact presumed to be true but not actually verified</li> </ul>
<b>B</b>		
09	<b>Bibliography</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A list of all sources of information consulted for the study, some of which may not have been cited within the body of publication</li> <li>▪ A list of all the sources you have used whether referenced or not</li> </ul>

<b>C</b>		
<b>10</b>	<b>Census</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The collection of data from all members, instead of a sample, of the target population</li> <li>▪ A sample that includes every member of the targeted population of the research study</li> </ul>
<b>11</b>	<b>Census survey</b>	Descriptive research that attempts to acquire data from each and every member of the population
<b>12</b>	<b>Chi-square test</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Test of statistical significance for categorical variables</li> <li>▪ Statistical procedure used to examine the difference between categorical variables in the same population</li> </ul>
<b>13</b>	<b>Control Group</b>	A control group in a scientific experiment is a group separated from rest of the experiment where the independent variable being tested cannot influence the result
<b>14</b>	<b>Copyright</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Refers to the legal right of the owner of intellectual property</li> <li>▪ The exclusive legal right to reproduce, publish, sell or distribute the matter and form of something (such as a literary, musical, or artistic work)</li> </ul>

<b>D</b>		
<b>15</b>	<b>Data</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Information gathered during the research process</li> <li>▪ Units of information or any statistics, facts, figures, general materials, evidence, or knowledge collected about samples/population during the course of study</li> <li>▪ Recorded observation, usually in numeric/textual form</li> </ul>
<b>16</b>	<b>Data Analysis</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The process by which data is organized to better understand patterns or behavior</li> <li>▪ The process of simplifying data in order to make it comprehensible</li> </ul>
<b>17</b>	<b>Delimitation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Address how the study will be narrowed in scope</li> <li>▪ Delimitations are made by the researcher which should be mentioned. They describe the boundaries that have been set for the study. In educational research the delimitations will frequently deal with such items as population/sample, treatment(s), setting and instrumentation</li> </ul>
<b>18</b>	<b>Dependent variable</b>	A dependent variable is the variable which is measured in the experiment. It responds to the independent variable. Because it 'depends' on the independent variable, it is called dependent variable. Example: 'How stress affects heart rate in human'- independent variable would be stress and dependent variable would be heart rate
<b>19</b>	<b>Dissertation</b>	Research project completed as part of an undergraduate and postgraduate degree

20	<b>DOI (Digital Object Identifier)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Is a string of numbers, letters and symbols used to permanently identify an article or document and link to it on the web. A DOI will help the reader easily locate a document for citation</li> <li>▪ A unique identifier assigned to articles by a DOI Registration Agency so that individual scholarly work can be precisely identified and located</li> </ul>
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**E**

21	<b>Ethics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Set of rules, written and unwritten, that govern expectations of our own and others' behavior</li> <li>▪ Refer to moral principles or values that generally governs the conduct of an individual or group</li> </ul>
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**F**

22	<b>Field study</b>	Research conducted where research subjects live or where the activities of interest take place
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**G**

23	<b>Grey Literature</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Material that is less formal than an article in a peer review journal or a chapter in a book – so it is not easily tracked down</li> <li>▪ Includes internal reports, committee minutes, conference papers, facts sheets, newsletters and campaigning materials</li> <li>▪ May also be made available on request and is increasingly available on the internet</li> </ul>
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**H**

24	<b>Hypothesis</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ An hypothesis is a specific statement of prediction</li> <li>▪ A research hypothesis is a specific, clear, and testable proportion or predictive statement about the possible outcome of a scientific research</li> </ul>
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**I**

25	<b>Impact factor</b>	The Impact Factor (IF) or Journal Impact Factor (JIF) of an academic journal is a scientometric index that reflects the yearly average number of citations that an article published in the last two years in a given journal received. It is frequently used as a proxy for the relative importance of a journal within its field; journals with higher impact factor are often deemed to be more important than that with lower ones
26	<b>Independent variable</b>	An independent variable is a variable that is changed or controlled in a scientific experiment to test the effect of dependent variable. Example: If a scientist conducts an experiment to test the theory that a vitamin could extend a person's life-expectancy, then the independent variable is the amount of vitamin that is given to the subject within the experiment. This is controlled by the experimenting scientist

27	<b>Intellectual Property (IP)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Intellectual property is a category of property that includes intangible creations of the human intellect. They are of many types, most well-known being copyrights, patents, trademarks and trade secrets.</li> <li>▪ Refers to creations of the mind</li> </ul>
28	<b>ISBN (International Standard Book Number)</b>	A 10- or 13-digit number specifically identifying books published internationally
29	<b>ISSN (International Standard Serial Number)</b>	An 8-digit number specifically identifying serial publications, such as academic journal

**J**

30	<b>Justification of a study</b>	A rationale statement in which a researcher indicates why the study is important to conduct; includes implications for theory and/or practice
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**L**

31	<b>Limitations</b>	Limitations in research are restrictions and constraints. Example: sample size, equipment, time, financial resources, access to literature, age of data
32	<b>Literature review</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Comprehensive survey of research literature on a topic</li> <li>▪ Systematic definition, location and analysis of documents containing information related to a research problem</li> <li>▪ Critical summary or research on a topic of interest, generally prepared to put a research problem in context or to identify gaps and weaknesses in prior study so as to justify a new investigation</li> </ul>

**M**

33	<b>Methodology or research method</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A theory or analysis of how research does and should proceed</li> <li>▪ A particular procedure or a set of procedures. These may include the methods, techniques and instruments used in a research experiments</li> </ul>
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**P**

34	<b>Paraphrasing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ It means taking the words of another source and restating them, using your own vocabulary</li> <li>▪ Is expressing the meaning of someone else's words instead of quoting directly</li> <li>▪ In academic writing is an effective way to restate, condense, or clarify another author's ideas while also provided credibility to your own argument or analysis</li> </ul>
35	<b>Peer review</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A process by which research studies are examined by independent panel of researchers for review. The purpose of such review is to open the study to examination, criticism, review and replication by peer investigators and ultimately incorporate new knowledge into the field</li> </ul>

36	<b>Periodical</b>	An information source published in multiple parts at regular intervals (daily, weekly, monthly, and biannually). Journals, magazines, newspapers are all called periodicals
37	<b>Pilot study</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A small scale research study that is conducted prior to the larger, final study</li> <li>▪ A preliminary trial of the study or a mini study, typically should be performed before the final study</li> </ul>

**Q**

38	<b>Qualitative data</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Data gathered where participant's responses to questions are recorded in words</li> <li>▪ Data that is non- numerical and embedded in their context, e.g.: responses to open ended questions in a survey, opinions of people information</li> <li>▪ Non-numeric information such as conversation, text, audio or visual</li> </ul>
39	<b>Quantitative data</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Data generated when participant's responses are recorded as numerals</li> <li>▪ Data that is numerical and be 'counted'. E.g., responses to closed-ended questions in a survey</li> <li>▪ Numeric information including quantities, percentages, and statistics</li> </ul>

**R**

40	<b>Reference list</b>	A list of all sources of information used in writing the research work and cited within the body of publication
41	<b>Research ethics</b>	Application of moral rules and professional code of conduct to the collection, analysis, reporting and publication of information about research subjects
42	<b>Research report</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Condensed form or a brief description of research work done by the researcher</li> <li>▪ Outcome of a scientific investigation and its purpose to convey information contained in the report to the reader or audience</li> </ul>
43	<b>Reliability</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The degree of consistency or accuracy with which an instrument measures the attributes it is designed to measure</li> <li>▪ The degree to which a test/research tool consistently measures whatever it measure</li> </ul>

**S**

44	<b>Sample</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Subset of population selected to participate in the research study</li> <li>▪ A smaller group that represents a population of interest</li> </ul>
45	<b>Sampling</b>	The process of selecting sample from the target population to represent the entire population
46	<b>Secondary sources</b>	Second hand information, such as a brief description of study written by someone other than researcher

47	<b>Significance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Significance of the study means why it is important</b></li> <li>▪ <b>Statistical significance-</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- is a measure whether research findings are meaningful</li> <li>- refers to whether any differences observed between groups being studied are real or whether they are simply due to chance</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
48	<b>Special population (vulnerable groups)</b>	<p>Those participants that fit in one or more of the following categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Under the age of 18</li> <li>B. Cognitive or physically challenged</li> <li>C. Pregnant subjects</li> <li>D. Subjects whose major language is not English</li> <li>E. Prisoners, parolees, incarcerated subjects</li> <li>F. Terminally ill subjects</li> </ul>
49	<b>SPSS</b>	‘Statistical Package for the Social Sciences’ is a computer software commonly used in quantitative analysis of data
50	<b>Statistics in research</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Statistics is the science of collecting, organizing, analyzing, interpreting and presenting data</b></li> <li>▪ <b>Statistical knowledge help in using the proper methods to collect the data, employ the correct analyses, and effectively presents the results</b></li> </ul>
51	<b>Statistical analysis</b>	Process of collecting, examining, manipulating, summarizing and interpreting quantities or numerical data for the purpose of identifying patterns, trends, and relationships in the data. It can include the use of descriptive statistics such as percentages, means, variances and correlations and/or the use of inferential statistics such as t-test, chi-square tests, regression, and analysis of variance (ANOVA)
52	<b>Subjects</b>	Participants in research from whom data are collected

**T**

53	<b>T-test</b>	A t-test is used to determine how the scores of two groups differ on a single variable. For example, to determine whether writing ability differs among students in two classroom, a t-test could be used
54	<b>Thesis</b>	A thesis is an unpublished document produced by students as part of the requirements for the degree. They come at various levels (e.g., Honors, Masters, and Ph.D.)

**U**

55	<b>URL (Uniform Resource Locator)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>A URL is a unique identifier used to locate resources on the net</b></li> <li>▪ <b>URL is the global address of documents and other resources on the World Wide Web. It is the mechanism used by browser to retrieve any published resources on the web.</b></li> </ul>
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**V**

<b>56</b>	<b>Variable</b>	<b>A measurable attribute or characteristics of a person, group or object that varies within the same under investigation (e.g., age, weight, IQ, Child care type)</b>
<b>57</b>	<b>Validity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <b>Validity refers to how accurately a method measures what it is intended to measure</b></li><li>▪ <b>Validity simply means that a test or instrument is accurately measuring what it supposed to measure</b></li></ul>