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MLIS Semester II
(Paper – 1)
Research Methods And Statistical Techniques
Topic – Historical Method
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Historical method

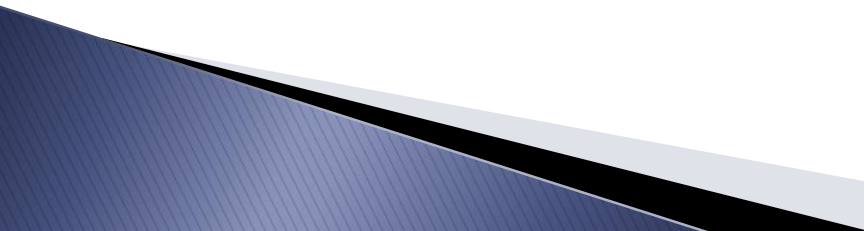
Historical research is the systematic collection and objective evaluation of data related to past occurrences in order to test hypotheses concerning causes, effects, or trends of those events which may help to explain present events and anticipate future events.

In other words, Historical research involves studying, understanding and interpreting past events. The purpose of historical research is to reach insights or conclusions about past persons or occurrences. It entails more than simply compiling and presenting factual information; it also requires interpretation of the information.

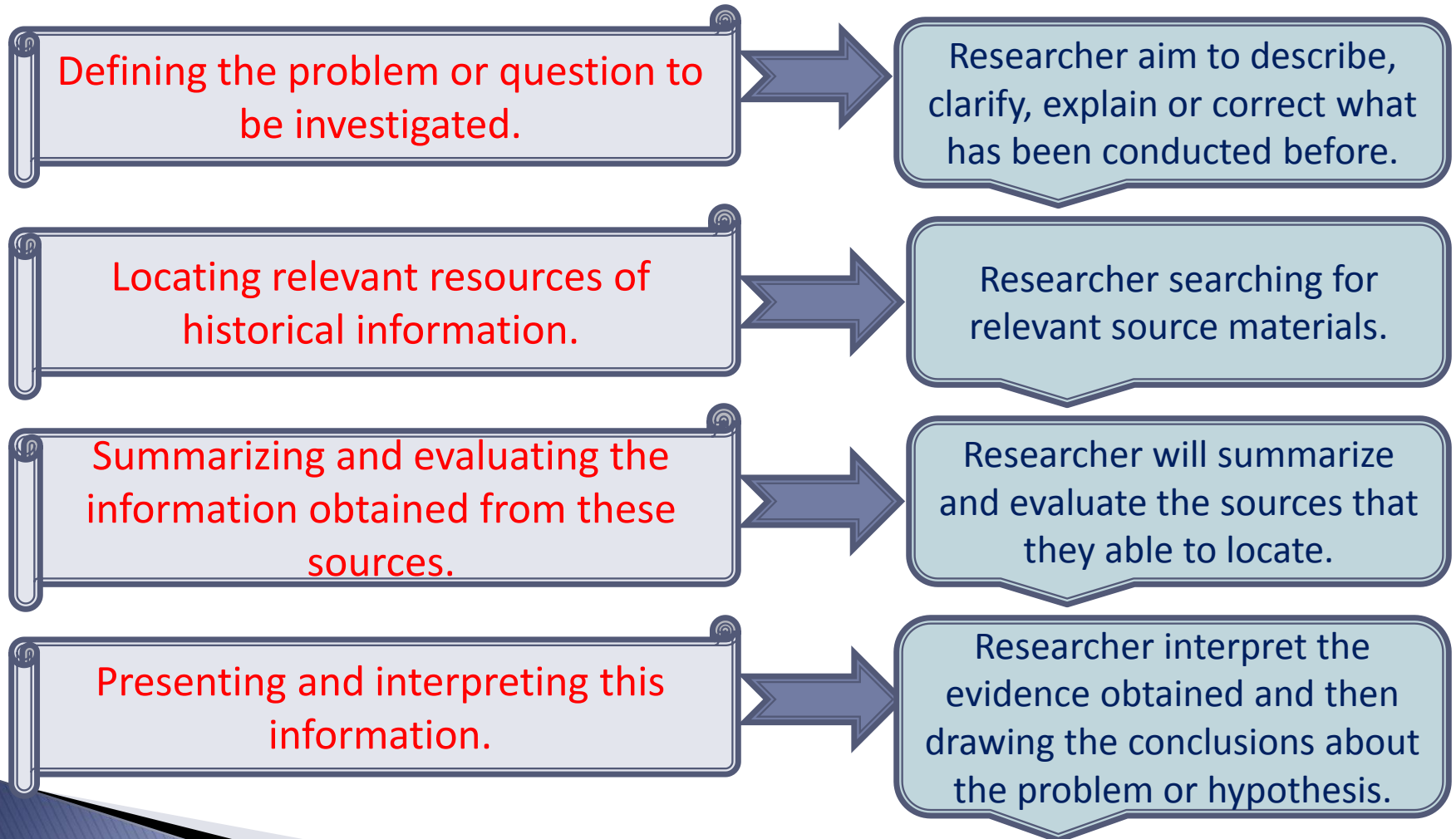
It is a systematic collection and evaluation of data to describe, explain and thereby understand actions or events that occurred sometime in the past.

No manipulation or control of variables and primarily focuses in the past.

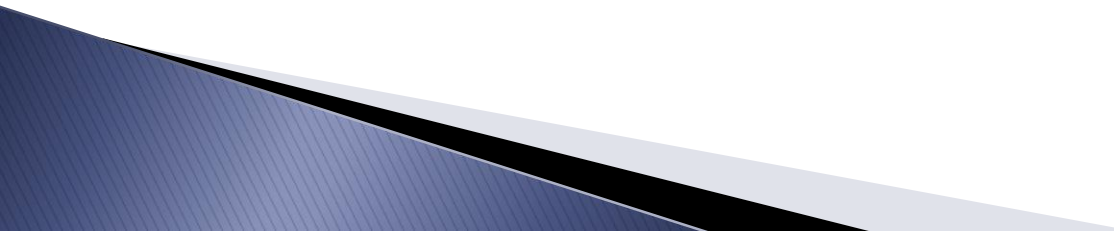
Purposes

- ▶ To make people aware of what has happened in the past so they may learn from past failures and successes.
 - ▶ To learn how things were done in the past to see if they might be applicable to present day problems and concerns.
 - ▶ To assist in prediction.
 - ▶ To test hypothesis concerns relationships or trends.
 - ▶ To understand present educational practices and policies more fully.
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Steps involved in historical research

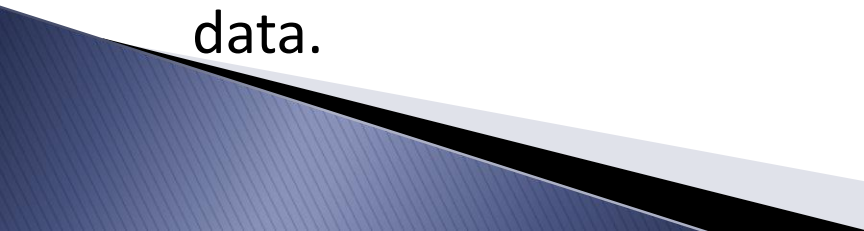


Advantages


- ▶ The research is not involved in the situation that is studied.
 - ▶ The researchers do not interact with the subjects of study.
 - ▶ Analysis of historical data may help explain current and future events.
 - ▶ Many current educational practices, theories and issues can be better understood in the light of past experiences.
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- ▶ Researchers can apply scientific objectivity in attempting to determine exactly what did happen in the past.
- ▶ If well done, this research involves systematic, objective data collection and analysis.

Disadvantages

- ▶ In conducting historical research, the researcher can neither manipulate nor control any of the variables.
 - ▶ There is no way, historical researcher can affect events of the past.
 - ▶ Historical research can't collect data by administering instruments.
 - ▶ Historical research is limited to whatever data are available.
 - ▶ Historical research excessively relies on secondary source of data.
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Conclusion

- ▶ Historical research is necessary to define the situations of the past and its meaning in the light of the present problem.
 - ▶ It can provide a perspective for decision making about educational problems, and it assists in understanding why things are as they are.
 - ▶ Educational reform and even social reform are functions often served by historical research.
 - ▶ Issues are often better understood and probably better dealt with if the historical perspective is known.
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THANK YOU