



Master Seminar - Research: Methods and Project



Erasmus+

Master Seminar - Research: Methods and Project

1 ECTS



1. THE BASIC ELEMENTS OF A RESEARCH PROJECT
2. METHODOLOGY: HYPOTHESIZE. GENERAL AND PARTICULAR OBJECTIVES. TIMETABLE.
3. **DOCUMENTARY RESEARCH, ARCHIVES, LIBRARIES.**
4. DIRECT RESEARCH: GEOMETRIC, CONSTRUCTIVE AND MECHANICAL.
5. DAMAGES, MAP OF DAMAGES. POSSIBLE CAUSES.
6. SOLUTIONS. HOW TO CHOOSE THE BEST ONES.
7. PRESENTING YOUR RESEARCH PROJECT IN CLASS
8. ACADEMIC WRITING

CURRICULAR CONTENTS

RESEARCH: METHODS AND PROJECT

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03 DOCUMENTARY RESEARCH

- ARCHIVAL RESEARCH
- USE OF DOCUMENTS AND PUBLIC AND PRIVATE RECORDS



WHAT IS?
DOCUMENTARY RESEARCH

"Research that uses personal and official documents as a source material. Documents... may include such things as newspapers, diaries, stamps, directories, handbills, maps, government statistical publications, photographs, paintings, gramophone records, tapes, and computer files."

Scott & Marshall (2015)

WHAT IS? **DOCUMENTARY RESEARCH**

- ONLINE RESOURCES
- ARCHIVES
- LIBRARIES



DOCUMENTARY RESEARCH

- ICOMOS: <https://www.icomos.org/>
- ICCROM: <https://www.iccrom.org/>
- BNE: <http://www.bne.es/en/Inicio/index.html>
- IPCE: <https://ipce.culturaydeporte.gob.es/en/inicio.html>



RESEARCH REPORT

The Use of Documentary Research Methods in Social Research

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Introduction

Social research is an activity that is undertaken to find an answer or explanation regarding a particular social phenomenon. It involves *systematic* collection of data about such a social phenomenon for the purpose of finding and or understanding patterns and regularities in it. Social science departments in most universities require some of their final year students to undertake a small piece of social research, commonly referred to as a 'research project' in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the award of a degree. A social research project is normally small in scale and is intended to gauge the student's ability to convert social research *knowledge* (acquired in class) into social research *skills*. Depending on how the student performs in the research project, the department will know whether the student is competent to undertake independent research in the future or to work with little supervision as a research assistant. To the majority of social scientists the idea of a research project is that it is something that is 'original' and for which 'new data' must be collected. To this end the social survey method, sometimes supplemented by in-depth interviews and participant observation, is selected as the method of choice, and very few social scientists ever think of re-analysing existing data sets (Hakim 1982).

Although social surveys, in-depth interviews and participant observation have been tried and tested, they are not the only ones available nor are they always useful. There is another research method that is often marginalised or when used, it is only as a supplement to the conventional social surveys. This is the *documentary research method* or the use of documentary sources in social research. This method is just as good and sometimes even more cost effective than social surveys, in-depth interviews or participant observation. The use of documentary methods refers to the analysis of documents that contain information about the phenomenon we wish to study (Bailey 1994). Payne and Payne (2004) describe the documentary method as the techniques used to categorise, investigate, interpret and identify the limitations of physical

<http://citeseerx.ist.psu.edu/viewdoc/download?doi=10.1.1.454.5260&rep=rep1&type=pdf>

Documentary Research Method: New Dimensions**Jashim Uddin Ahmed¹****ABSTRACT**

This paper explores the documentary research method (DSM) in social research and aims to provide a general understanding of the DSM as well as specific tools for its successful implementation. In recent years, although a number of social research scholars discuss the importance of documentary research but this method has had little attention as compared to other methods. The DSM tools can be utilized in all fields where the documentary method is prominent, including business, anthropology, communications, economics, education, medicine, political science, social work, and sociology. In social science research the use of documentary sources is often overlooked. This paper argues that although the documentary research method is not very popular in social science research but it is nevertheless acceptable as a scientific research method. This article reveals assessing the validity of documentary data as well as the value of documentary research.

JEL Classification: D80; D83; I20;

Keywords: Documentary Research, Qualitative research, Research methodology, new dimensions

1. INTRODUCTION**1.1 Background**

'Research' is a particular form of enquiry. It is not possible to do research without having a problem, which needs to be solved, or a question, which needs to be answered (Ahmed and Huda, 2006). Easterby-Smith, Thorpe and Lowe (1999: 9) stressed "research is always hedged about with uncertainty and risk." According to Ahmed (2009), research is a part of a wider process that constitutes and renders a subject, amenable to study in a distinctive way. However, it is concerned with seeking solutions to problems or answers to questions. Gillham (2000: 2) offered the following definition of research:

Research is about creating new knowledge, whether the disciplines be - history, medicine, physics or social work. The raw material of research is *evidence*, which then has to be made sense of. Similarly, Marshall and Rossman (1995) argued that research is a process of trying to gain a better

The material presented by the author does not necessarily represent the viewpoint of editors and the management of the Indus Institute of higher education as well as the author's institute.

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Acknowledgements: Authors would like to thank the editors and anonymous referees for their comments and insight in improving the draft copy of this article. Author further would like to declare that this manuscript is original and has not previously been published, and that it is not currently on offer to another publisher; and also transfer copy rights to the publisher of this journal.

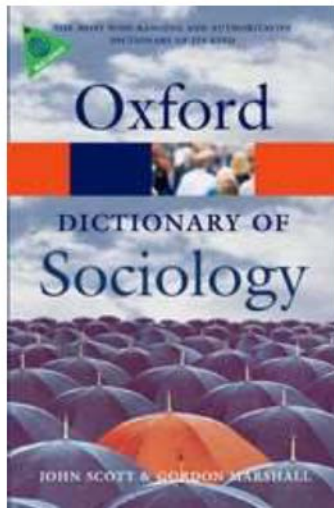
Received: 05-01-2010;

Revised: 03-03-2010;

Accepted: 15-06-2010;

Published: 30-06-2010

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/227441751_Documentary_Research_Method_New_Dimensions



A Dictionary of Sociology (3 rev. ed.)
John Scott and Gordon Marshall

<http://www.oxfordreference.com/view/10.1093/acref/9780199533008.001.0001/acref-9780199533008>



**Project "SURE - Sustainable Urban Rehabilitation in Europe"
implemented in frames of Erasmus+ Programme
Key Action 2: Strategic Partnership Projects
Agreement n° 2016-1-PL01-KA203-026232**

This publication has been funded within support from the European Commission.

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This publication reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

**Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union**

