“Either write something worthwhile or do something worthwhile.”

Benjamin Franklin

Tuesday - Nov 6, 2012 (1:25 pm)

Lecturer/Convenor:

Richard Boateng, PhD.

Email: richard@pearlrichards.org

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Class Website

• www.vivaafrica.info
Session Objectives

• This session seeks to discuss how to select a research topic and start a review on the topic.
The Research Process

1. Selecting a Topic – Research Topic
2. Determining the Problem (Preliminary Literature Review) – Research Problem
4. Determining the Hypotheses (Prelim. Literature Review) – Research Hypotheses
5. Determining the Objectives – Research Objectives
6. Determining the Question – Research Question
7. Detailed Review of Literature – Literature Review
8. Determining Research Framework – Research Framework (including hypotheses)
9. Designing the Research – Research Design
10. Collecting Data – Research Data Collection
11. Analyzing and Interpreting Data – Research Analysis and Conclusion
12. Informing Others – Research Write Up and Publishing
Literature Review as a process
Structure of Long Essay & LR

- Abstract
- Chapt. 1 – Introduction
- Chapt. 2 – Literature Review
- Chapt. 3 – Context of the Study
- Chapt. 4 – Research Methodology
- Chapt. 5 – Results and Discussion
- Chapt. 6 – Conclusion
What is the Literature Review?

A literature review **IS**:

1. A **synthesis** of available resources and materials with a strong relation to the topic in question, accompanied by a **description** **AND** a **critical evaluation and comparative analysis** of each work

2. **Focused** on a particular question or area of research

Literature Review Vs Discussion

- **Literature Review**: Starts broad and narrows to show how past research relates to your project.

- **Discussion**: Starts specific by explaining what your results show in relation to your project, then widens out to say what this may mean for the field of research as a whole.

For more on this and other aspects of academic study, see our website at www.reading.ac.uk/studyadvice
Reviewing the Past to Define the Future

• …in highlighting the discrepancy between what we know and what we need to know, literature review enables a researcher to identify critical knowledge gaps and thus alert and motivate other researchers to opportunities for a key contribution and also making a chart for future research.

Webster and Waston (2002)
Reviewing the Past to Define the Future

1. The international expansion of China's small- and medium-sized business: Status today and future outlook
2. A classification of export marketing problems of small and medium sized manufacturing firms in DCs
3. A review of entrepreneurship research published in the hospitality and tourism management journals
4. Entrepreneurship and dynamic capabilities: a review, model and research agenda
5. National culture and entrepreneurship: A review of behavioral research

Webster and Waston (2002)
Reviewing the Past to Define the Future

1. Economic value-added: A review of the theoretical and empirical literature
2. A Review of the Earnings Management Literature and Its Implications for Standard Setting
3. Accounting and taxation in Europe — A comparative overview
4. IFRS adoption and accounting quality: a review
5. The use of disclosure indices in accounting research: A review article

Webster and Waston (2002)
Reviewing the Past to Define the Future

1. Place Branding: A Review of Trends and Conceptual Models
2. Methodological issues in cross-cultural marketing research: a state-of-the-art review
4. Structural modeling in marketing: Review and assessment
5. Culture study in international marketing: a critical review and suggestions for future research

Webster and Waston (2002)
Reviewing the Past to Define the Future

1. Taxes and corporate finance: A review
2. The efficiency of financial institutions: a review and preview of research past, present and future
3. Sorting and voting: A review of the literature on urban public finance
4. Behavioural finance: A review and synthesis
5. Efficient capital markets: A review of theory and empirical work
6. Finance and economic growth-a review of theory and the available evidence

Webster and Waston (2002)
Reviewing the Past to Define the Future

1. Big questions in public network management research
2. Collaborative public management: Assessing what we know and how we know it
4. Technology transfer and public policy: a review of research and theory
5. Public-sector work motivation: A review of the current literature and a revised conceptual model
6. Public–private partnerships: an international performance review

Webster and Waston (2002)
Reviewing the Past to Define the Future

1. Information Technology and Productivity: A Review of the Literature
2. Revisiting IS business value research: what we already know, what we still need to know, and how we can get there
3. The resource-based view and information systems research: Review, extension, and suggestions for future research
4. Six Sigma quality: a structured review and implications for future research
5. A review of culture in information systems research
6. A Descriptive Literature Review and Classification of Cloud Computing Research

Webster and Waston (2002)
Reviewing the Past to Define the Future

1. The concept of information overload: A review of literature from organization science, accounting, marketing, MIS, and related disciplines
2. A (partial) review of entrepreneurship literature across disciplines
3. A Cross-Disciplinary Review of the Concept of Accountability

Webster and Waston (2002)
Reviewing the Past to Define the Future

1. **Mobile Phones and Financial Services** in Developing Countries: A Review of Concepts, Methods, Issues, Evidence and Future Research Directions
   – *Third World Quarterly* (Journal and Working Paper)

2. **Ecommerce in LDCs**: Summary Evidence and Implications.
   – *Journal of African Business*

3. **E-commerce in Developing Economies**: A Review of Theoretical Frameworks and Approaches
   – *Book Chapter*
4. **The Age of E-governance** – Summary Evidence and Implications
   – *Report*

5. **Dominant Issues and Conceptual Approaches** in Mobile Business Research From 2005-2012
   – *Conference Paper and Book Chapter*
Reviewing the Past to Define the Future

... undertaking such a study would require the review of literature which entails:

• the gathering,

• assimilation and

• analysis of extant literature from diverse sources largely academically oriented.

Webster and Waston (2002)
Reviewing the Past to Define the Future

Should be...

- **concept-centric**, with these concepts forming the **organizing framework** for the paper,
- and cover **relevant literature**,
- not confining itself to **one set of journals**, or
- **one geographic region**

Webster and Waston (2002)
Reviewing the Past to Define the Future

Building Blocks

- Research Issues
- Theory or Conceptual Approach
- Research Methods
- Level of Analysis
- Geographical Region
- Industry / Artefact / Infrastructure / Stakeholders
- Time
- Journal
- Research Gaps
Reviewing the Past to Define the Future

Conducting the review

A. Introduction/Background and Rationale for the Review

– Why is this topic relevant? What about the sub-themes?
– Are there any existing reviews – so what is different/new/novel about what you want to do?
– What will happen if this is not done?
– If this an established theme, then you need some GUTS to call for another review….
Reviewing the Past to Define the Future

Conducting the review

B. Framing XXXX Research

• B1. XXXXX Defined

• B2. Description of Concepts

• B3. Classification of XXXX Research

(refer to m-finance paper)
C1. Methodology for the Literature Review

• Define Scope – Time, Journals and Geographic Region
• Role of Conference Papers and Practitioner/Industry Reports
• Key contributors and assistants
• Selection of Databases
• Keywords used for search
• Screening criteria and statistics
• Final number of articles, number of journals and time coverage

(refer to m-finance paper and JAB Paper)
Reviewing the Past to Define the Future

Conducting the review

C2. Presentation of Findings

• C2a. Distribution of Articles in Top Journals in your discipline
  – You can add Journals from DCs in your discipline
• C2b. Distribution of Articles by Year
• C2c. Distribution of Business Activities/Stakeholders/Industry
• C2d. Distribution of Research Focus (Sub-Themes may be included)

(refer to m-finance paper and JAB Paper)
### Reviewing the Past to Define the Future

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Top E-commerce Journals</th>
<th>Number of Articles</th>
<th>IS Journals focused on Global IT Issues, DEs and Development</th>
<th>Number of Articles</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Electronic Markets</td>
<td>23 (9.4%)</td>
<td>Electronic Journal of Information Systems in Developing Countries</td>
<td>18 (7.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electronic Commerce Research</td>
<td>11 (4.5%)</td>
<td>Journal of Global Information Management</td>
<td>14 (5.7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journal of Electronic Commerce Research</td>
<td>9 (3.7%)</td>
<td>Journal of Global Information Technology Management</td>
<td>14 (5.7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Journal of Electronic Commerce</td>
<td>8 (3.3%)</td>
<td>Information Technology for Development</td>
<td>7 (2.9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication of AIS</td>
<td>6 (2.4%)</td>
<td>Information Technology &amp; People</td>
<td>3 (1.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journal of Management</td>
<td>2 (0.8%)</td>
<td>Information Technologies &amp; International Development</td>
<td>3 (1.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information Systems Research</td>
<td>2 (0.8%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MIS Quarterly</td>
<td>0 (0.0%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>61 (24.9%)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>59 (24.1%)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other Journals</strong></td>
<td><strong>184 (75.1%)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Other Journals</strong></td>
<td><strong>186 (75.9%)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total of All Journals</strong></td>
<td><strong>245 (100.0%)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Total of All Journals</strong></td>
<td><strong>245 (100.0%)</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*(refer to m-finance paper and JAB Paper)*
Reviewing the Past to Define the Future

Figure 2. Distribution of journal articles by year

(refer to m-finance paper and JAB Paper)
## Reviewing the Past to Define the Future

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Infrastructure</th>
<th>Number of Articles</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Applications</strong></td>
<td>114 (63%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-Organizational Systems</td>
<td>29 (16%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-Financial Services</td>
<td>26 (14%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-Retailing</td>
<td>17 (9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-Electronic Payment Systems</td>
<td>5 (3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-Electronic Services</td>
<td>2 (2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-Auctions</td>
<td>1 (1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-Education and Training</td>
<td>1 (1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-General Applications</td>
<td>33 (18%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hard Infrastructure</strong></td>
<td>13 (7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>General</strong></td>
<td>54 (30%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>181 (100%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*(refer to m-finance paper and JAB Paper)*
Reviewing the Past to Define the Future

Conducting the review

TABLE 5. Distributions of Articles by Focus on E-commerce

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Research Focus</th>
<th>Number of Articles</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Potential &amp; Constraints</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Opportunities</td>
<td>19 (10%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Assessment</td>
<td>17 (9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Development</td>
<td>5 (3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Adoption and Diffusion</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Technology</td>
<td>19 (10%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Managerial</td>
<td>6 (3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Organizational</td>
<td>2 (1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Cultural</td>
<td>6 (3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Environmental</td>
<td>9 (5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- E-readiness</td>
<td>3 (2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Interaction</td>
<td>21 (12%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

41 (23%) and 66 (36%)
Reviewing the Past to Define the Future

Conducting the review

D. Mapping XXXXX Research: Issues and Evidence

• Mapping of Articles Reviewed According Issues and Level of Analysis
  D1. Sub-theme 1
  D2. Sub-theme 2
  D3. Sub-theme 3
  D4. Sub-theme 4

(refer to m-finance paper and JAB Paper)
Reviewing the Past to Define the Future

(Refer to m-finance paper and JAB Paper)
E. Conceptual Approaches and Methodological Issues in XXXX Research

- **E1. Conceptual Approaches**
  - Mapping of Articles according to Conceptual and Methodological Approaches Taken (see Table 3)
  - Mapping Conceptual Approaches to XXXX (see Table 4)

- **E2. Methodological Issues**
  - Discuss Table 3 in terms of methodology

- **E3. Geographical Distribution**
  - Distribution of XXXX Research by Geographical Location (refer to e-governance paper)
  - Mapping of Articles Africa/Developing Countries according Issues and Level of Analysis

*(refer to m-finance paper and JAB Paper)*
# Reviewing the Past to Define the Future

## Table 3. Mapping of Articles Surveyed According to Conceptual and Methodological Approach Taken

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Approaches inspired by social theories</th>
<th>Approaches inspired by socio-technical theories (inc business models)</th>
<th>Approaches inspired by technical theories</th>
<th>No defined theoretical approach evident</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quantitative</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>11, 29, 30, 41</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mixed methods</td>
<td>1, 4, 17</td>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
<td>5, 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qualitative</td>
<td>2, 39, 42</td>
<td>31, 38</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>3, 32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Descriptive: No defined methodological approach evident</td>
<td>6, 24, 40</td>
<td>8, 9, 16, 26, 37</td>
<td>13, 22, 28</td>
<td>10, 12, 14, 15, 18, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 35, 36, 43</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*(refer to m-finance paper and JAB Paper)*
Untangling theories and conceptual approaches

A. *Theoretically-based approaches*: which make clear use of an identifiable theory that can be applied or tested.
B. *Framework-based approaches*: that make use of a framework for analysis that is derived from a body of theoretical work.
C. *Model-based approaches*: models that are applied, but without reference to a deeper body of knowledge.
D. *Concept-based approaches*: that make use of a defined concept such as ‘information poverty’, but which is not theoretically grounded.
E. *Category based approaches*: that make use of a prescribed set of factors to carry out analysis.

*(refer to m-finance paper and JAB Paper)*
## Untangling theories and conceptual approaches

### Table 4. Mapping Conceptual Approaches to m-Finance Research in Developing Countries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Research Issue</th>
<th>Conceptual Approaches Identified</th>
<th>Classification of conceptual approach</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Financial Needs</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information poverty</td>
<td>Framework to assess mobile payments: built on theories of (i) consumer choice and demand; (ii) network externalities; (iii) switching costs; (iv) complementary goods; (v) information technology value; and (vi) adoption and diffusion</td>
<td>Concept</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additive-transformational m-payments model: assessing market needs</td>
<td></td>
<td>Framework</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additive-transformational m-payments model: assessing regulatory needs</td>
<td></td>
<td>Model</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Design and Applications</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additive-transformational m-payment model: four stages of market development</td>
<td></td>
<td>Model</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>m-Payment/banking business models: bank vs operator-centric</td>
<td></td>
<td>Model</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theory of asymmetrical information and cultural perspectives on collective action</td>
<td></td>
<td>Theory</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*(refer to m-finance paper and JAB Paper)*
E. Conceptual Approaches and Methodological Issues in XXXX Research

• E1. Conceptual Approaches
  • Mapping of Articles according to Conceptual and Methodological Approaches Taken (see Table 3)
  • Mapping Conceptual Approaches to XXXX (see Table 4)

• E2. Methodological Issues
  • Discuss Table 3 in terms of methodology

• E3. Geographical Distribution
  • Distribution of XXXX Research by Geographical Location (refer to e-governance paper)
  • Mapping of Articles Africa/Developing Countries according Issues and Level of Analysis

(refer to m-finance paper and JAB Paper)
## Methods

### Table 3. Mapping of Articles Surveyed According to Conceptual and Methodological Approach Taken

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<thead>
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<td>13, 22, 28</td>
<td>10, 12, 14, 15, 18, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 35, 36, 43</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
TABLE 7. Distributions of Articles by Research Methods

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Research Methods</th>
<th>Number of Articles</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Survey</td>
<td>62 (34%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Case study</td>
<td>44 (24%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Content analysis</td>
<td>1 (1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Archival data analysis</td>
<td>1 (1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attribute analysis</td>
<td>1 (1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simulation/experimental study</td>
<td>4 (2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mixed methods</td>
<td>10 (6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (not directly related to the above)</td>
<td>57 (31%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>181 (100%)</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*(refer to m-finance paper and JAB Paper)*
E. Conceptual Approaches and Methodological Issues in XXXX Research

• **E1. Conceptual Approaches**
  - Mapping of Articles according to Conceptual and Methodological Approaches Taken (see Table 3)
  - Mapping Conceptual Approaches to XXXX (see Table 4)

• **E2. Methodological Issues**
  - Discuss Table 3 in terms of methodology

• **E3. Geographical Distribution**
  - Distribution of XXXX Research by Geographical Location (refer to e-governance paper)
  - Mapping of Articles Africa/Developing Countries according Issues and Level of Analysis

*(refer to m-finance paper and JAB Paper)*
Reviewing the Past to Define the Future

Figure 5 Distribution of E-governance Research by Geographical Region

Distribution of E-governance Research by Geographical Region

- No Country: 43 (14%)
- North America: 43 (14%)
- Middle East: 8 (3%)
- Global: 21 (7%)
- Europe: 129 (43%)
- Oceania: 9 (3%)
- Asia: 34 (11%)
- South America: 1
- Africa: 11 (4%)

N = 299 Articles

Number of Articles

(refer to m-finance paper and JAB Paper)
Reviewing the Past to Define the Future

Table 1 Mapping of Articles on Africa According to the Motivation of Research and Level of Analysis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Article Details</th>
<th>Participative Imperative</th>
<th>Instrumental Justification</th>
<th>Technological Imperative</th>
<th>Evaluative Imperative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Studies</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>conducted at</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the <strong>macro</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>level</td>
<td>3 7</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2 8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Studies</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>conducted at</td>
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<tr>
<td>the <strong>meso</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>level</td>
<td>1 11</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Studies</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>conducted at</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the <strong>micro</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>level</td>
<td>1 11</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Bold:** analysis of data collected from primary sources (7 articles)

**Italic:** analysis of data collected from secondary sources (1 article)

**Normal:** no data collected or analysed; anecdotal information (3 articles)

(refer to m-finance paper and JAB Paper)
Reviewing the Past to Define the Future

F. Research Gaps and Future Research Directions

- F1. Gaps in Issues and Evidence
- F2. Gaps in Conceptual Approach
- F3. Gaps in Methodological Approach
- F4. Conclusions and Pointers for Future Research

(refer to m-finance paper and JAB Paper)
Reviewing the Past to Define the Future

F. Research Gaps and Future Research Directions

- F1. Gaps in Issues and Evidence
- F2. Gaps in Conceptual Approach
- F3. Gaps in Methodological Approach
- F4. Conclusions and Pointers for Future Research

G. References

G1. Previous Literature Reviews Concerning XXXXX
G2. Research Articles Included in the Review

(refer to m-finance paper and JAB Paper)
The LR stages are:

1. Select and refine a topic
2. Identify and Locate literature
3. Ensure Relevance
4. Record and Retrieve
5. Review and Summarize
6. Write
Ensure Relevance

**After researching**

- From reading the titles and abstracts, priorities the literature that we have identified and make a note of why it has a high, medium or low priority (at this stage).

- Develop the habit of screening the literature for relevance before we download it or print it out. This way we will not become overwhelmed with all of the reading that we have to do.


RESEARCH GAPS
and Topic Selection
Research Gap - Explained

1. Discrepancies in existing research literature which need to be addressed
2. Areas of study where there are reasonable gaps in the existing literature.

Critical Component of the research problem – and through which research objectives and questions emerge. Hence, the potential contribution to literature lies in the research gap.
Types of Research Gaps

A. Issue Gap
   - An issue which is less discussed, or less represented in literature. Very little is known about this issue.

B. Theory Gap
   - A theory or theoretical framework which is less discussed, or less represented in literature. Theory gap can also exist when current theories or conceptual models are inadequate in addressing a particular research issue.

C. Method Gap
   - A research method which is less discussed or less represented in literature in respect to a particular research topic/issue. Sometimes researchers make a case for new research methods or approaches to be used for a particular research issue. Inconclusive/conflicting empirical results can also create method gaps.

D. Context Gap
   - A research context – geographic region – which is less discussed or less represented in literature, especially in respect to a particular research issue.

E. Level of Analysis Gap
   - A level of analysis (meta, macro, meso and micro) – which is less discussed or less represented in literature, especially in respect to a particular research issue.
Types of Research Gaps

Research gaps are sometimes complex in their presentation, thus two or more types of research gaps are combined to create a **Complex Research Gap**.

1. Issue + Context
2. Issue + Theory
3. Issue + Method
4. Issue + Level of Analysis
5. Theory + Context
6. Theory + Method
The good research topic must:

1. Be original;
2. Be of interest to both the researcher and the supervisor;
3. Be timely and relevant;
4. It must make a contribution to existing knowledge or respond to a research gap;
5. Be specific and distinct, not too broad;
6. Incorporate the main purpose of the research;
7. Be clever, captivating and unforgettable; and
8. The research questions that flow from it must be possible to address through a research design.
What can influence choice of topic

The researcher values, belief, interests, relevance, and personal experiences can influence the choice of a research topic.

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<tr>
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<th>SUPERVISOR</th>
<th>GAPS IN LITERATURE</th>
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<tr>
<td>DATA SOURCE</td>
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<td>SOCIETY (trends and news)</td>
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## What can influence choice of topic

### SUPERVISOR

Find out the research interests of the potential supervisors; have a discussion with them; read their publications

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What can influence choice of topic

Data Source

researchers are sometimes restricted to particular topics because of access to or lack of access to data in the specific field of study or time availability

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What can influence choice of topic

Current Trends

Researchers can select a topic based on how important a particular issue is perceived to be to society at that point in time.

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