

Perspectives of Research Instrument

Aim

This instrument helps to distinguish between three 'modes' of research. This can help teaching teams decide on which research activities are most relevant.

Perspectives of Research

'Research' can mean different things according to the context. While in English there are several labels for research-related work, other languages do not always have words to make these distinctions. In Dutch, for example, we only know 'onderzoek'. In order to have meaningful discussions about what we mean by 'research', a broader vocabulary is sometimes useful. It can help focus the discussion and in making decisions on what research activities are relevant.

The Perspectives of Research instrument helps distinguish between three different research 'modes' in order of the amount of complexity and research skills that they require: scholarship, inquiry, and research. Understanding these differences can help your team choose the mode of research that fits your team and assignment best.

Scholarship implies that a research question can be answered based on existing knowledge that is gathered and integrated. Therefore, secondary sources are often used. Scholarship can be extended by keeping up to date with the field, which includes reading journals, attending conferences, and learning new methods.

Inquiry means the systematic gathering of examples, which can be practical examples and theoretical ones. The selection of the examples requires a framework that makes the examples comparable.

Research implies the systematic collecting of data, according to a predetermined design and research question. This includes systematic procedures for data analysis and reporting. Research is appropriate when the currently available information is not sufficient.



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Higher Education, Research and Innovation Department

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