THE NATURE OF ACADEMIC RESEARCH. RESEARCH READING

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Annotation. *The nature of academic research in universities is obscured. Although higher education scholars acknowledge that academic research within universities has been conceptualized in terms of basic and applied research, the conceptual debate regarding what constitutes each type of research persists. The purpose of this article review is to highlight these assumptions by showing how the nature of basic and applied research is understood in the existing literature.*

Аннотация. *Природа академических исследований в университетах неясна. Хотя исследователи высшего образования признают, что академические исследования в университетах концептуализируются с точки зрения фундаментальных и прикладных исследований, концептуальные дебаты относительно того, что представляет собой каждый тип исследований, сохраняются. Цель обзора этой статьи подчеркнуть эти предположения, показав, как в существующей литературе понимается природа фундаментальных и прикладных исследований.*

Key words: *academic research, education, research reading, analyzing data, scanning, skimming.*

Ключевые слова: *академические исследования, образование, научное чтение, анализ данных, сканирование, скимминг.*

Academic research is the backbone of knowledge creation and dissemination in various fields of study. It encompasses the systematic investigation and analysis of theories, concepts, and empirical data to advance understanding, solve problems, and contribute to societal progress. The process of engaging with academic research involves not only conducting original studies but also the critical task of research reading, which is essential for scholars, students, and professionals.

Academic research is characterized by its rigorous methodology, systematic approach, and the quest for verifiable knowledge. Researchers often follow a structured process that includes identifying a research problem, reviewing relevant literature, formulating hypotheses, designing and conducting experiments or surveys, analyzing data, and drawing conclusions. The ultimate goal is to generate findings that are reliable, valid, and replicable.

Key components of academic research include:

1. literature review: an extensive review of existing research to understand the current state of knowledge, identify gaps, and build a foundation for new research.

2. methodology: a detailed plan outlining the research design, data collection methods, and analysis techniques.

3. data analysis: the process of examining and interpreting data to uncover patterns, relationships, and insights.

4. discussion and conclusion: the synthesis of research findings, their implications, and suggestions for future research.

The Importance of research reading. Research reading is a crucial skill for anyone involved in academic research. It entails the careful examination and interpretation of scholarly articles, books, and other academic sources. Effective research reading enables individuals to stay abreast of the latest developments in their field, critically evaluate evidence, and apply findings to their own work.

Strategies for effective research reading

✓ *Purposeful reading:* define the purpose of your reading. Are you looking for specific information, trying to understand a concept, or evaluating a study's methodology? Knowing your goal helps you focus and retain relevant information.

✓ *Scanning and scimming:* quickly skim through the abstract, introduction, headings, and conclusion to get an overview of the article. Scan for keywords and phrases that align with your research interests.

✓ *Critical evaluation:* assess the credibility and relevance of the source. Consider the author's qualifications, the publication's reputation, and the study's methodology. Look for potential biases or conflicts of interest.

✓ *Note-taking:* take organized notes while reading. Summarize key points, jot down important quotes, and record your thoughts and questions. This practice aids comprehension and serves as a valuable reference for future use.

✓ *Engaging with the content:* engage actively with the material by questioning assumptions, comparing findings with other studies, and considering the broader implications. Discussing the content with peers or mentors can also enhance understanding.

✓ *Synthesizing information:* integerate insights from multiple sources to form a coherent understanding of the topic. This synthesis is crucial for writing literature reviews, developing theoretical frameworks, and identifying research gaps.

Conclusion**.** Academic research and research reading are intertwined processes that drive the advancement of knowledge. Mastering the art of research reading not only enhances one's ability to conduct rigorous research but also fosters a deeper understanding of complex subjects. As we navigate the ever-expanding landscape of academic literature, the ability to read, evaluate, and synthesize research effectively remains a cornerstone of scholarly excellence.

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