

Research stages

Course "Research Methods«

Professor Adambekova A.

Re + Search

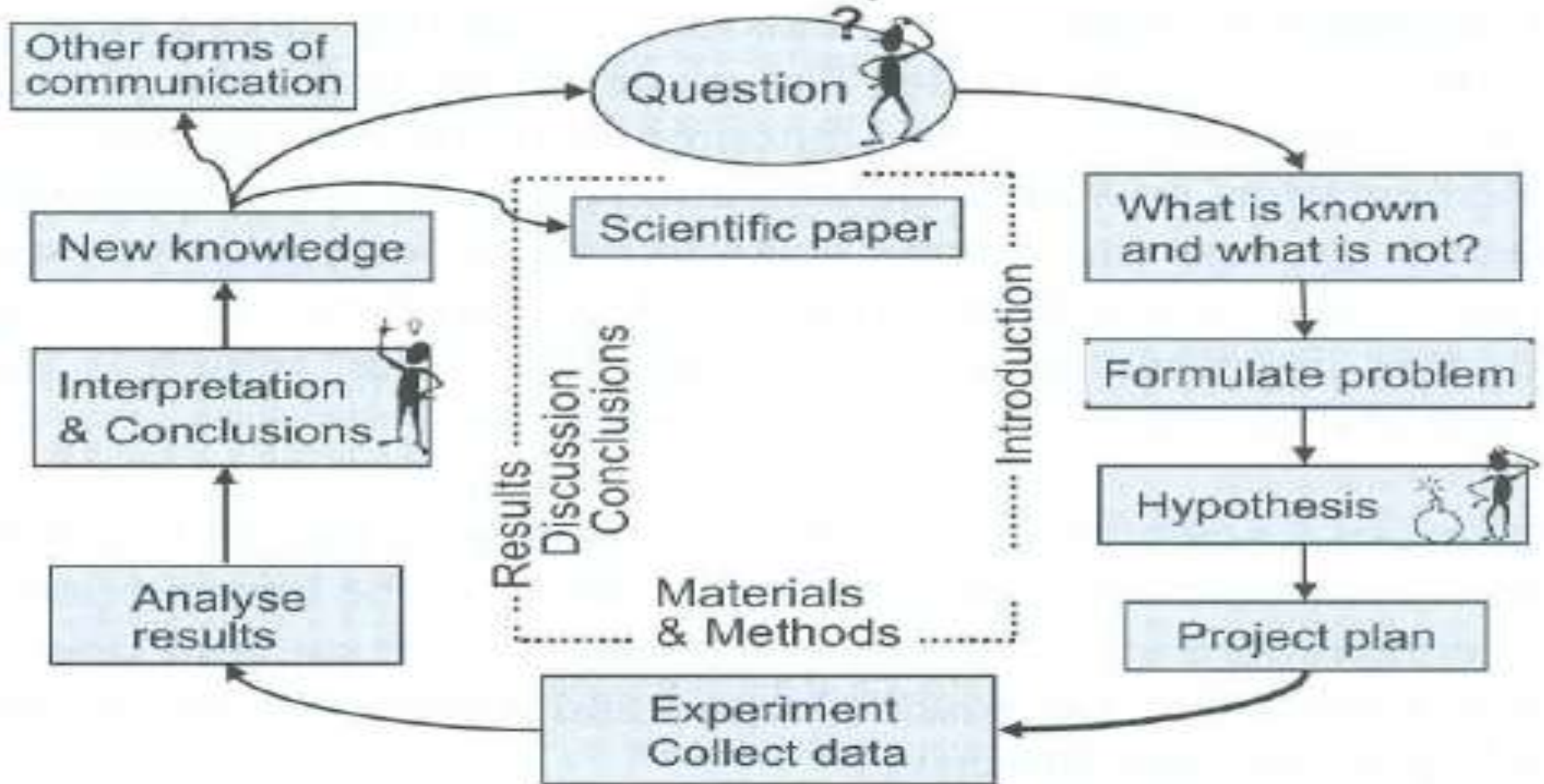
Researcher observes
phenomena
repeatedly

Collection of
data/information

Analysis of data,
drawing conclusions

Зерттеуші құбылыстарды өнемі зерттейді
Исследователь неоднократно наблюдает явления

The research process



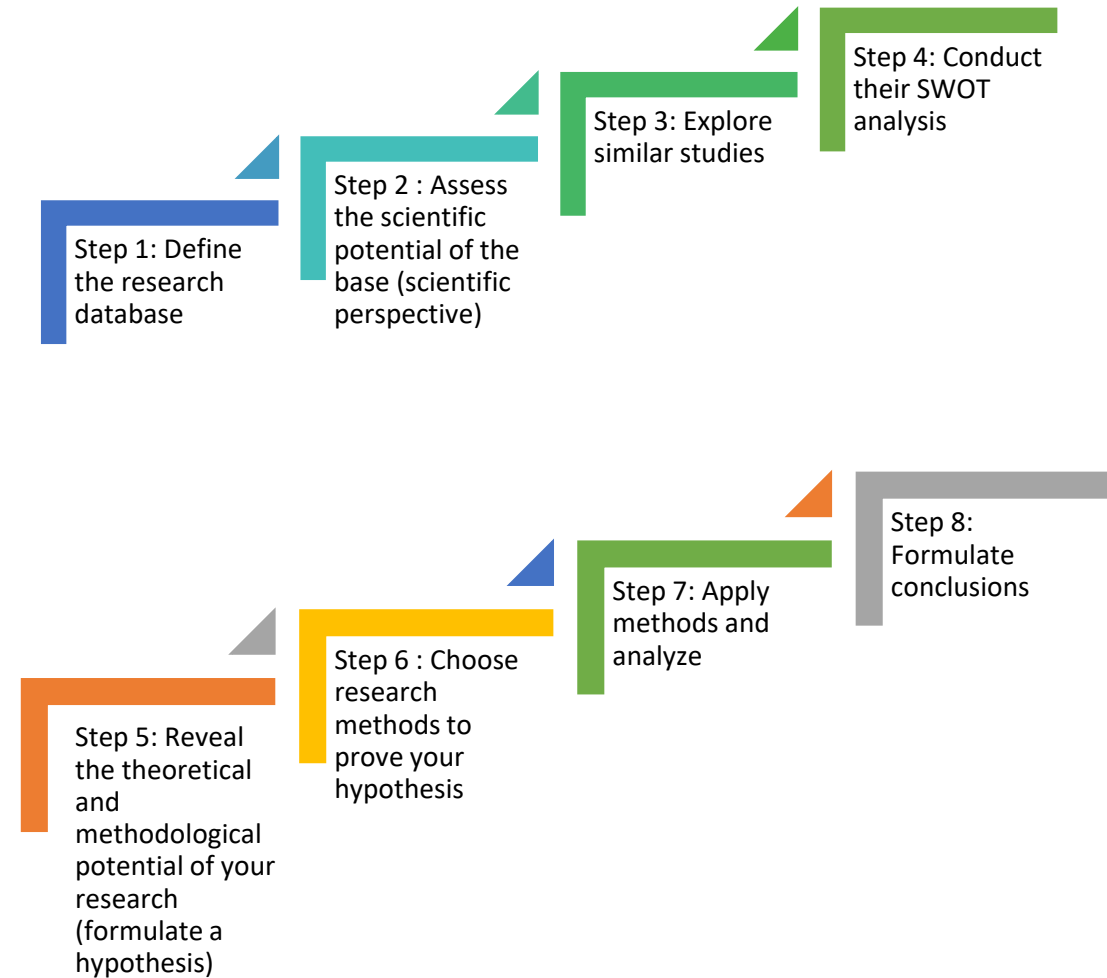
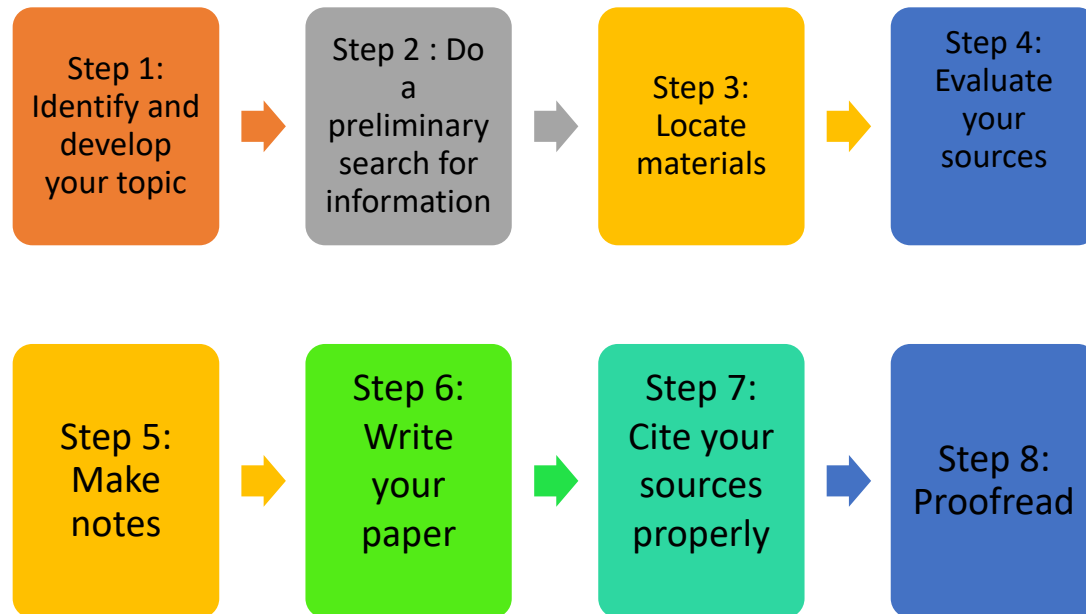
Академиялық зерттеуде сипаттауы мүмкін:
1 сіз жасаған эксперимент
2 сіз жасаған сауалнама
3 проблемаларды шешу үшін балама ұсыныстарды салыстыру

In academic terms it might describe:

- ❑ an experiment you have conducted
- ❑ a survey you have carried out
- ❑ a comparison of alternative proposals to deal with a situation

В академических терминах это может описывать:
1 эксперимент, который вы провели
2 опрос, который вы провели
3 сравнение альтернативных предложений для решения ситуации

Research steps



Step 1: Identify and develop your topic

- Selecting a topic can be the most challenging part of a research assignment. Since this is the very first step in writing a paper, it is vital that it be done correctly. Here are some tips for selecting a topic:
- Select a topic within the parameters set by the assignment. Many times your supervisor will give you clear guidelines as to what you can and cannot write about. Failure to work within these guidelines may result in your proposed paper being deemed unacceptable by your instructor.
- Select a topic of personal interest to you and learn more about it. The research for and writing of a paper will be more enjoyable if you are writing about something that you find interesting.
- Select a topic for which you can find a manageable amount of information. Do a preliminary search of information sources to determine whether existing sources will meet your needs. If you find too much information, you may need to narrow your topic; if you find too little, you may need to broaden your topic.
- Be original. Your supervisor reads hundreds of research papers every year, and many of them are on the same topics (topics in the news at the time, controversial issues, subjects for which there is ample and easily accessed information). Stand out from your classmates by selecting an interesting and off-the-beaten-path topic.
- Still can't come up with a topic to write about? See your supervisor for advice.

Step 2 : Do a preliminary search for information

- Before beginning your research in earnest, do a preliminary search to determine whether there is enough information out there for your needs and to set the context of your research. Look up your keywords in the appropriate titles in the library's Reference collection (such as encyclopedias and dictionaries) and in other sources such as our catalog of books, periodical databases, and Internet search engines. Additional background information may be found in your lecture notes, textbooks, and reserve readings. You may find it necessary to adjust the focus of your topic in light of the resources available to you.

Step 3: Locate materials

- With the direction of your research now clear to you, you can begin locating material on your topic. There are a number of places you can look for information:
- If you are looking for books, do a subject search in the Catalog of KazNU. A Keyword search can be performed if the subject search doesn't yield enough information. Print or write down the citation information (author, title, etc.) and the location (call number and collection) of the item(s). Note the circulation status. When you locate the book on the shelf, look at the books located nearby; similar items are always shelved in the same area.
- Use the library's [electronic periodical databases](#) to find magazine and newspaper articles. Choose the databases and formats best suited to your particular topic; ask at the librarian at the Reference Desk if you need help figuring out which database best meets your needs. Many of the articles in the databases are available in full-text format.
- Use search engines ([Google](#), [Yahoo](#), etc.) and subject directories to locate materials on the Internet. Check the [Internet Resources](#) section of the KazNU Library web site for helpful subject links.

Step 4: Evaluate your sources

- See the [*CARS Checklist for Information Quality*](#) for tips on evaluating the authority and quality of the information you have located. Your supervisor expects that you will provide credible, truthful, and reliable information and you have every right to expect that the sources you use are providing the same. This step is especially important when using Internet resources, many of which are regarded as less than reliable.

Step 5: Make notes

- Consult the resources you have chosen and note the information that will be useful in your paper. Be sure to document all the sources you consult, even if you there is a chance you may not use that particular source. The author, title, publisher, URL, and other information will be needed later when creating a bibliography.

Step 6: Write your paper

- Begin by organizing the information you have collected. The next step is the rough draft, wherein you get your ideas on paper in an unfinished fashion. This step will help you organize your ideas and determine the form your final paper will take. After this, you will revise the draft as many times as you think necessary to create a final product to turn in to your supervisor.

Step 7: Cite your sources properly

- Give credit where credit is due; cite your sources.
- Citing or documenting the sources used in your research serves two purposes: it gives proper credit to the authors of the materials used, and it allows those who are reading your work to duplicate your research and locate the sources that you have listed as references. The [MLA](#) and the [APA](#) Styles are two popular citation formats.
- Failure to cite your sources properly is plagiarism. Plagiarism is avoidable!

Step 8: Proofread

- The final step in the process is to proofread the paper you have created. Read through the text and check for any errors in spelling, grammar, and punctuation. Make sure the sources you used are cited properly. Make sure the message that you want to get across to the reader has been thoroughly stated.
- Additional research tips:
- Work from the general to the specific -- find background information first, then use more specific sources.
- Don't forget print sources -- many times print materials are more easily accessed and every bit as helpful as online resources.
- If you have questions about the assignment, ask your supervisor.
- If you have any questions about finding information in the library, ask the librarian.

My recommendations

- Define study database
- Assess the scientific potential of the base (scientific perspective)
- Explore similar studies
- Conduct their SWOT analysis
- Identify the theoretical and methodological potential of your research (formulate a hypothesis)
- Choose research methods to prove your hypothesis
- Apply methods and analyze
- Formulate conclusions