



Sylvia Rodger Academy
Research Program

The Visual Dictionary of Research Terms

Version 2

February 2021



AutismCRC



Australian Government
Department of Industry, Science,
Energy and Resources

AusIndustry
Cooperative Research
Centres Program

The Sylvia Rodger Academy is an initiative of the Autism CRC, which receives funding from the Australian Government

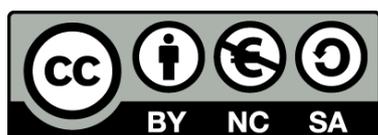
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ISBN: 978-0-9941641-8-6

Citation: Cooperative Research Centre for Living with Autism Spectrum (2016). *The visual dictionary of research terms*. Brisbane, Queensland: Autism CRC Ltd.

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Acknowledgments

This body of work was developed by Wenn Lawson, Sylvia Rodger, Judy Brewer, Kate van Dooren, Olivia Gatfield, Maree Maxfield, and Rochelle Johnson, to help people understand common research terms.

Valuable input as to the scope of the work was provided by the inaugural members of the Research Academy:

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The Cooperative Research Centre for Living with Autism (Autism CRC) is the world's first national, cooperative research effort focused on autism. Taking a whole of life approach to autism focusing on diagnosis, education and adult life, Autism CRC researchers are working with end-users to provide evidence-based outcomes which can be translated into practical solutions for governments, service providers, education and health professionals, families and people with autism.

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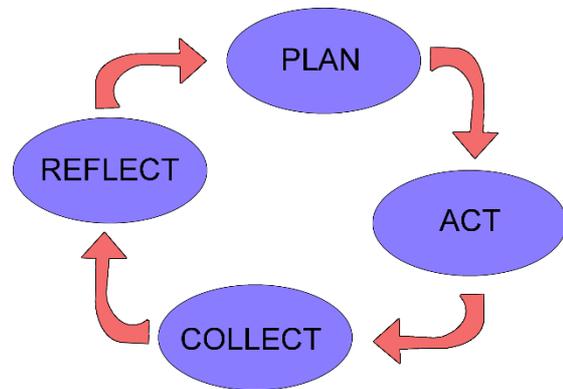
A

Abstain: refrain from participation. For example, to abstain from voting means that you decline to vote.

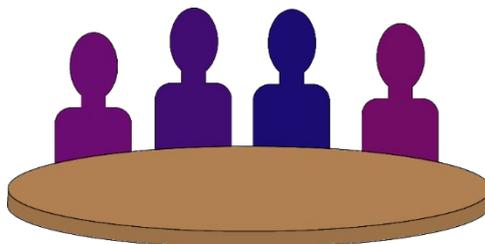
Academic journal: a collection of academic articles that is published regularly online or in hard copy (or both).

Action: possible activity after a research project.

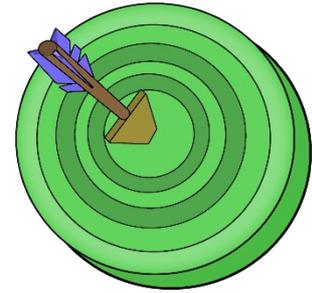
Action research: research that involves the participants and the researchers alike, which is compiled during the research process.



Advisory group: a small group of people who are skilled in their area and who can advise a larger group, Board, or researchers of issues and opinions pertinent to the item of interest.



Aim/Aims: what we are trying to do. Aims are objectives, predictions, or descriptions that directly explore, propose, or point to the main thing we wish to explore.



For example, our main aim is to explore the impact of exercise on mental wellbeing.

Analysis: information (data) is collected, combined, and then explored (analysed). Analysing the information helps to understand the data so researchers can draw conclusions and reach outcomes.

Anonymity: keeping the personal details of participants private and not disclosing or making available these to the public. Allowing the person to anonymously take part in the study.



Area undergoing research: the focus of interest or specific issue that the research will look at.

For example, We looked at the impact of drinking coffee after 5pm on adult women's sleeping patterns.



Artefact: things people have created (like journal entries, newspaper articles, or artwork) that a researcher studies as data.



Assent: approval or agreement. In research, assent refers to a person's willingness to participate in research. Providing assent is not the same as informed consent.

At-risk: describing individuals or groups who are vulnerable.

Authorship: being listed as one of the authors of a journal article, book chapter, or other publication.

Autism Spectrum (AS): adults and children 'on the autism spectrum'. The idea that autistic people are as different and varied to each other as non-autistic people are from each other.

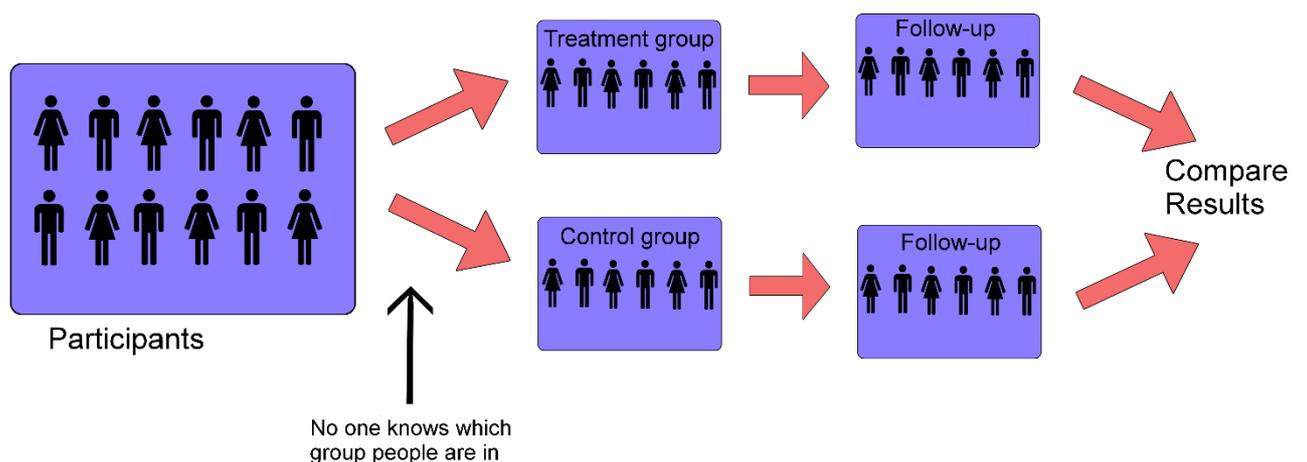
B

Baseline: the starting point for the measurement of something, such as before an intervention is provided to see what is happening at the beginning/outset.

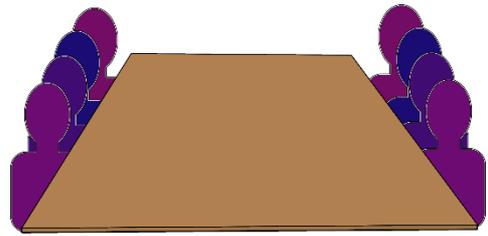
Bias: a particular tendency, trend, inclination, feeling or opinion - usually one that is preconceived or unreasonable. Researchers may unknowingly influence study results due to bias.

For example, illegal bias against older job applicants; the newspaper is biased towards a certain political party, etc.

Blindedness/double blind: an experimental procedure in which neither the participants of the experiment nor the researchers know the critical aspects of the experiment such as which participants are in the control group and which are in the experimental group. A double-blind procedure is used to guard against experimenter bias and placebo effects.



Board: elected or appointed members of a committee managing the business of an organisation, according to its rules of governance.



Budget: the measured amount of money or other limited resources available to fund, spend or work with.

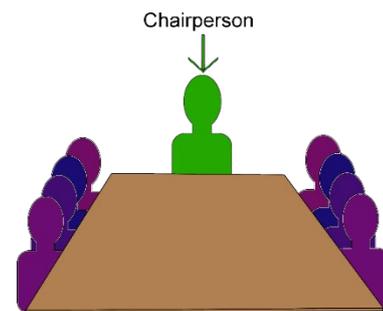
C

Call out: an invitation to submit articles for publication or to give a presentation at a conference.

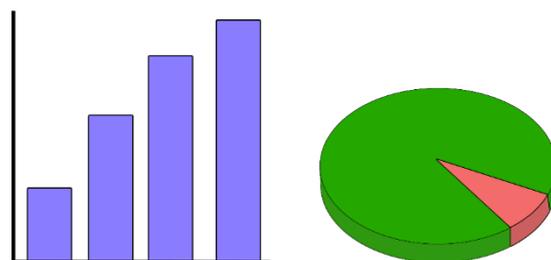
Case Study: a research method involving a detailed examination of the subject of a study (the case).

CAQDAS (Computer Assisted Qualitative Data Analysis): software programs that analyse qualitative data.

Chairperson: the person who leads the meetings of a group or organisation.



Charts: a visual representation of data and information.



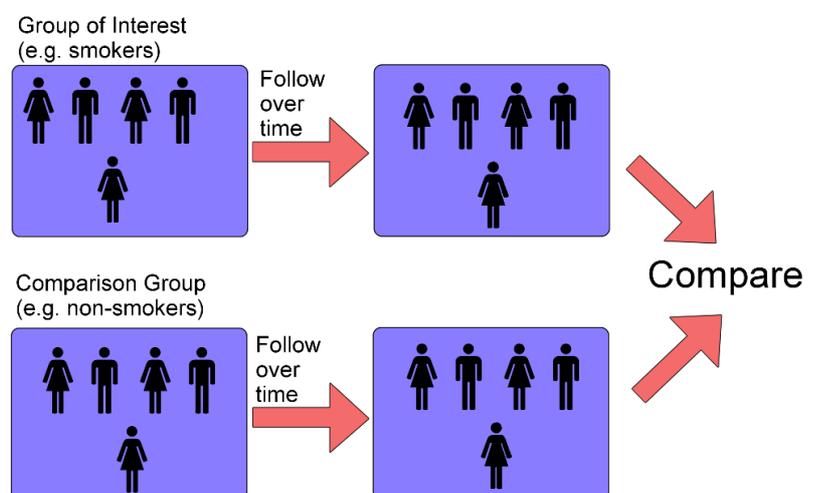
Chatham House Rule: a rule or principle according to which information disclosed during a meeting may be reported by those present but must not reveal the identity or affiliation of the speaker or any other participants.

Cite: to give reference details within the article or text of any author who has been quoted or whose work has informed the writing of that article. To attribute the information used to its author within the text of the work.

Clinical significance: the effect of a treatment or intervention. Is the effect enough to make a difference?

Code: a word or phrase that summarises a section of qualitative data.

Cohort Study: a study over time, usually following a group of people (a cohort) who have been exposed to a treatment or risk factor (experimental group) and another group who have not (control group). The outcomes of both groups are compared allowing assessment of relationships between the exposure or treatment and the outcome.



Community/Community Members: the people who could be affected by the outcomes of research. For example, in autism research the community includes autistic people, family and friends of autistic people, autism service providers, and anyone else who has a connection to autistic people.

Conclusion: what the research means. The final result or judgement of the topic researched.

For example, after collecting all the data (information) and looking at what it implies, we reach our conclusion or end result.

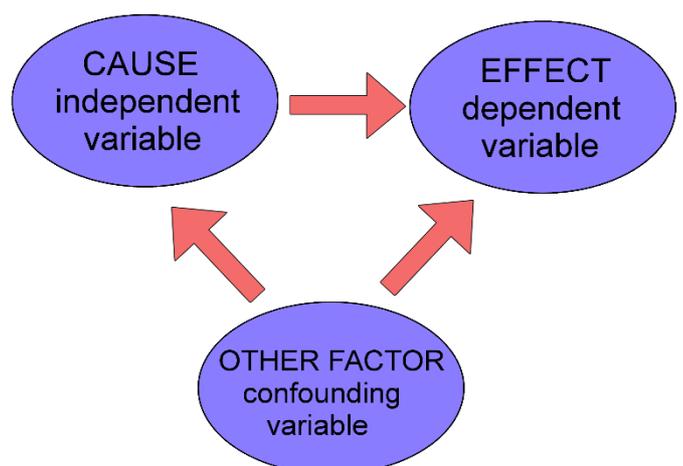
Confidentiality: personal information given to researchers will not be inappropriately shared. It usually means only the researcher, supervisor and individual concerned may know personal information.

Conflict of Interest (COI): where a person has another position or interest that may bias the project or discussion. A COI usually must be declared openly beforehand.

For example, an entrant in a competition being on the judging panel.

Confounding Variable: a variable that must be considered because it can distort (confound) the true effect of the other variables or intervention.

For example, an experiment looking at the effects of exercise on health may need to consider whether or not participants smoke. Smoking could confound (distort) the results.

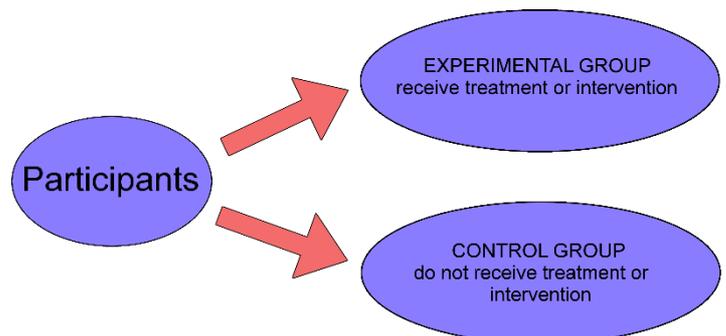


Consent: to agree or give permission to be included or participate. Informed consent is when an individual fully understands what he/she is agreeing to. Sometimes parents give consent on behalf of children who are considered too young to give their own consent.

Consent Form (CF): a written, formal document to be read, completed, and signed. This gives permission or consent, such as to take part in a study.

Constructivism/interpretivism: an approach in research which emphasises that people create their realities. Constructivism is often used in qualitative research in exploring various participant's realities.

Content analysis: a systematic method of describing written, spoken or visual communication or data. Content analysis may provide a quantitative (numerical) description of written data (words). Typically, content analysis uses qualitative codes or themes which capture the essence of what is meant by the written words.



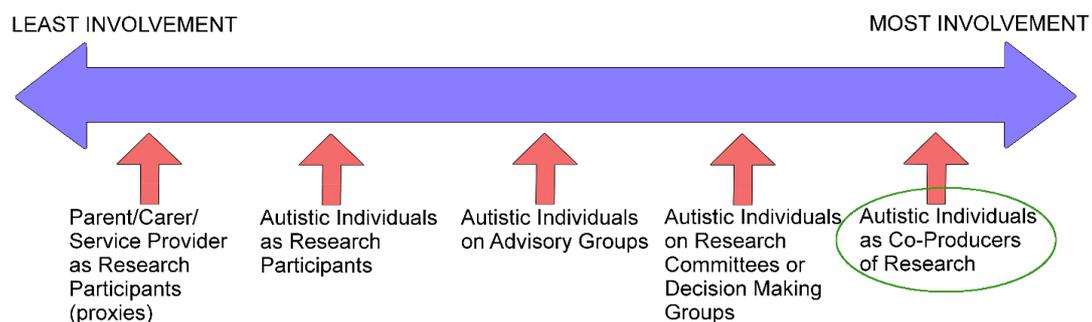
For example, responses to the open-ended survey question were coded as 1 where participants wrote about childhood and 2 where they wrote about adult years.

Control group: A group of subjects (people) who are used as the group to compare to. They are the group that *don't* receive treatment or intervention.

Convergent design: a mixed methods research design in which quantitative and qualitative data are collected at the same time.

Co-production: a partnership which involves sharing viewpoints, information, and ideas as equal partners; a venture where members are working together on an equal basis.

Continuum of Research Involvement



Creative Commons: a type of licensing that allows reproduction and expansion upon creative works, with varying levels of acknowledgment and payment dependent upon the use. For example, using something for personal use would typically cost less compared to something that would be widely published.

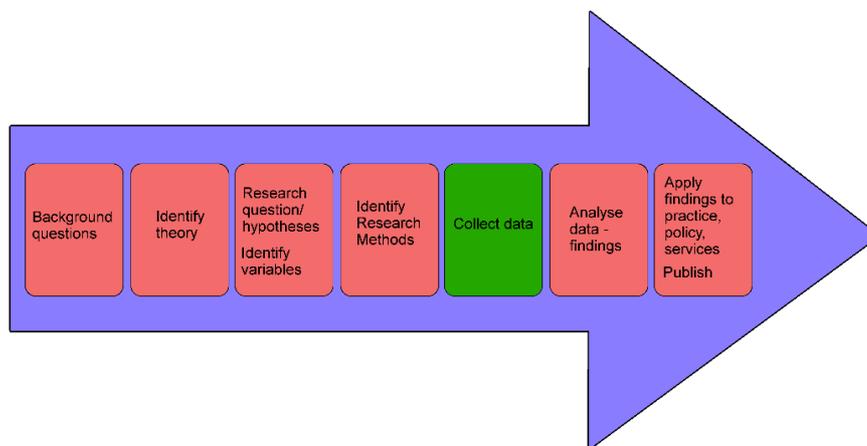
Critical appraisal: the process of systematically identifying the strengths and weaknesses of a research article, in order to assess the validity (whether it does what it says it does), usefulness and relevance.

Curriculum Vitae (CV)/Resume: a neatly laid out concise summary of a person's education and work history. Usually includes their name, date of birth and address at the top of the first page before the rest of the outline.



D

Data: research information that may be collected by way of interviews, observations, surveys, reports from literature reviewed, computer generated or all the above. Data may be obtained directly from sources such as through a telephone interview, in person, the internet or direct studies. It may also be obtained indirectly such as through comparisons of a variety of research already undertaken.



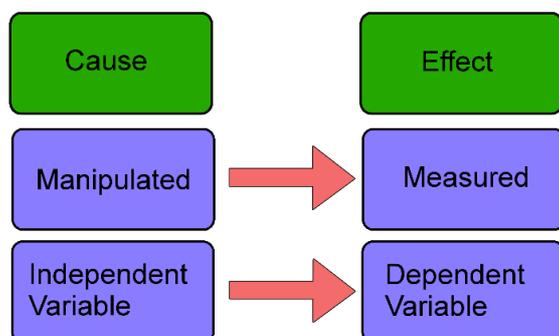
Data analysis: the process of transforming raw data into useable information. Methods of data analysis include statistical analysis and thematic analysis.

Data synthesis: combining results from a number of studies. See also meta-analysis.

Degree: a qualification for successful completion of a course of study. Usually refers to undergraduate (first university study) education at a university. At the end of 3-4 years fulltime study students obtain a bachelor's degree (for example, a Bachelor of Arts). This period of study may sometimes be undertaken part-time or by distance education.



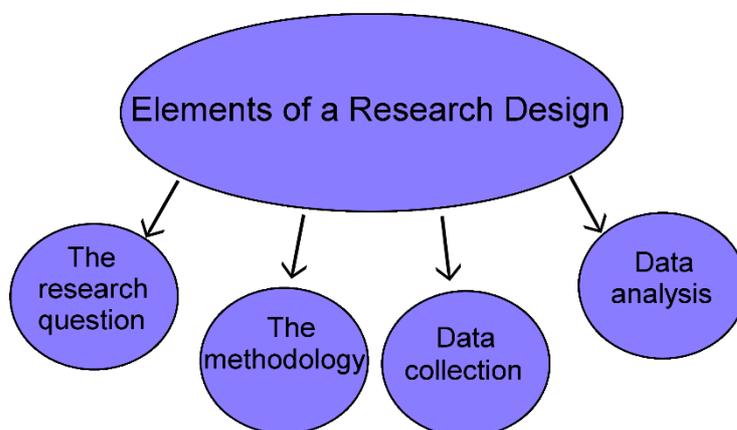
Dependent Variable: what you measure in the experiment and what is effected during the experiment. This is the outcome of the experiment/study. For example, reading ability, length of employment, autistic characteristics.



Descriptive statistics: analysis of data in which numbers are used to summarise or describe data.

Design: the model for how the research will be conducted.

There are many types of design models for research. Some use information (data) of a statistical nature (maths), tables, calculations, and measurements, this is called a quantitative research design.



The qualitative research design looks at the data in a non-statistical manner, or via observation (such as watching participants interact with others or within their environment and making observational notes on what the researcher sees).

There are methods that use both the quantitative (statistical analysis) and the qualitative design; these are called 'mixed methods/design'.

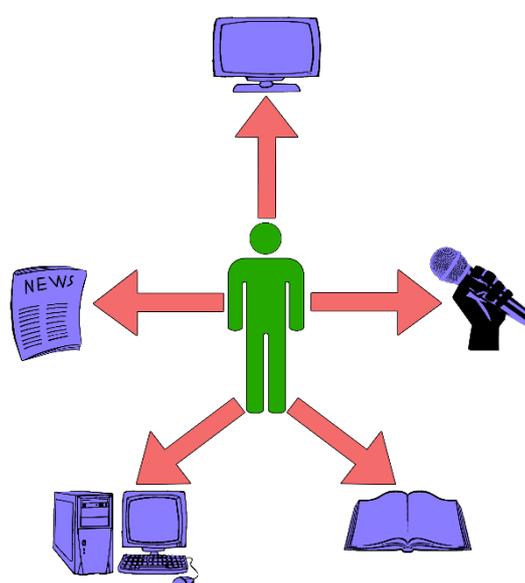


Dichotomy: divided into two mutually exclusive, opposed, or contradictory groups.

Diploma: A course of study/training undertaken at TAFE or similar institutes in a specific area of study leading to a certified qualification called a diploma. Sometimes after a degree has been awarded students may choose to do further study at a higher level, called a 'post degree' or 'graduate diploma', which is usually taken at a university.

Dissemination: distribute, pass knowledge around, and share information in a variety of ways.

For example, through speaking, writing, or illustrating.



E

Editor: the person or persons who check over the written work and checks (edits) it for any grammatical or spelling errors so the work is ready to be published.

e.g.: from the Latin, *exempli gratia* which means “for example.”

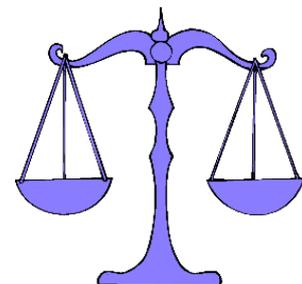
Efficacy: effectiveness. For example, researchers often study the efficacy of one intervention over another to see which one works best.

Empirically tested/informed: The work is based upon evidence which can be reproduced and replicated, often collected through research means.

End Users: the ultimate consumer (users) of a product, especially the one for whom the product has been designed. For example, the person on the spectrum who will use the augmented adaptive communication device.

Et al.: abbreviation for the Latin phrase *et alia* which means “and others”.

Ethics: a set of principles of right or appropriate conduct, such as of a person or profession, or to protect the rights of others.



For example, ‘The ethical thing to do is to ensure the parent or named person is present during the interview’. What is the accepted, usual etiquette for this? ‘Is it ethical to only accept middle class white men into a study exploring intelligence?’ ‘Are the ethics of autism research being facilitated by only researching autism’s impact upon parents; or should we ask



autistic individuals themselves?' 'Is it ethical to only ask verbal autistic children with how autism colours their lives, or should we find a way to ask non-verbal autistic children too?'

Ethnography: the study of people, sub groups, or cultures.

Etic: the perspective of an outsider.

Evaluation: to give feedback about your experiences.



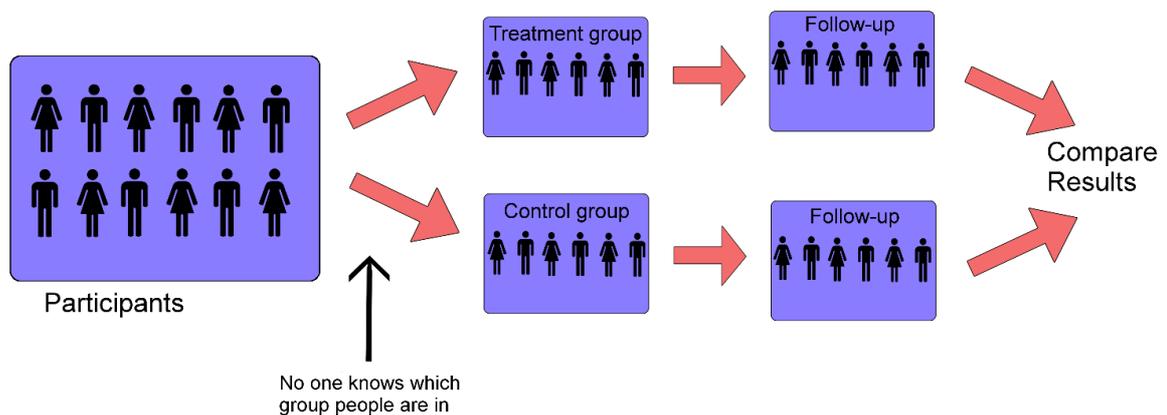
Event: a specific action, occasion or situation being recorded or measured. For example, brain response.

Event-related potential (ERP): the measured brain response that is the direct result of a specific sensory, cognitive, or motor event. For example, electrical activity recorded from the brain.

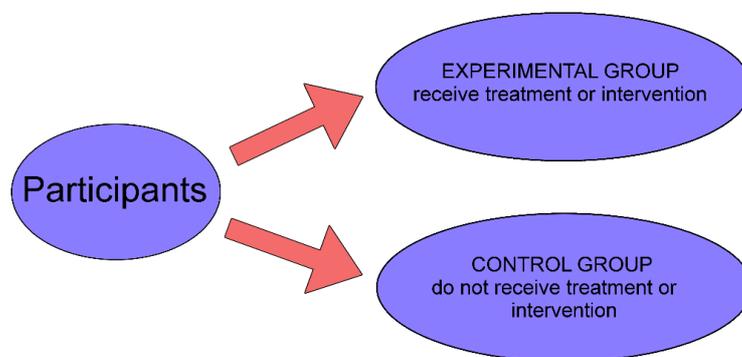
Evidence-based: indicates that the work, intervention, or action is based upon research showing its efficacy (or lack of).

Experimental design: experimental and quasi-experimental (meaning not truly experimental) examine the effect of a variable that the researcher manipulates on other variables.

Example: an experimental or quasi-experimental study might examine the effect of telling stories on children's literacy skills. The researcher will "manipulate" the variable of telling stories by placing half of the children in a treatment group that listens to stories and the other half of children in a control group that gets the ordinary literacy instruction. In a quasi-experimental design, participants are not randomly allocated to groups.



Experimental group: the group exposed to, or participating in, the experimental conditions.



Experimental research: research that involves measuring the impact of an intervention.

Explanatory sequential design: a mixed methods research design in which quantitative data is collected before qualitative data.

Exploratory sequential design: a mixed methods research design in which qualitative data is collected before quantitative data.

Expression of Interest (EOI): an individual's or agency's level of interest in wanting to be involved or considered for the project.

F

Factor: see variable.

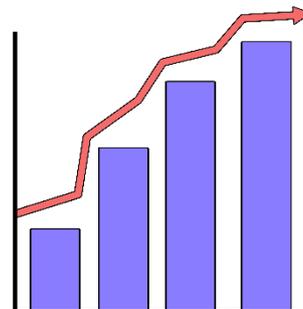
Feedback: when individuals give their views, opinions, and comments. It may be spoken, in written form, using a diagram or picture, or be an action or activity.

Focus group: a data collection method in which a group of people are asked their ideas, attitudes, experience, beliefs, researcher questions etc.

Free: not bound or committed; free to leave the research study.

G

Graphs: A graph (or a chart) are visual forms or ways to illustrate the results, the trend, the evidence and/or outcome of the research. They help us 'see' our results clearly.



Grounded theory: a research methodology sometimes used in qualitative research where the researcher does not have a theory but develops one through data collection.



H

Honours: a twelve-month program of study undertaken alongside a bachelor's degree (in the final year for four-year degrees) or as a twelve-month period after a bachelor's degree (for three-year degrees). Often involves the writing of an extended paper or minor thesis and provides a preparation for further research study such as Masters or PhD.

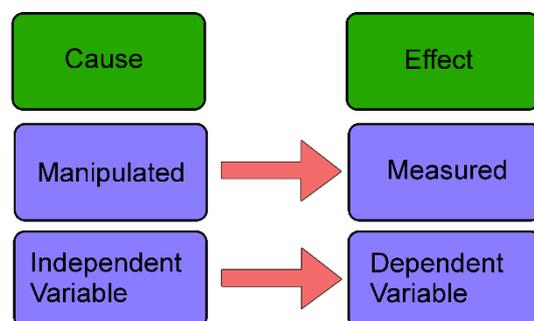
Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC): a group of individuals who are responsible for evaluating research proposals to make sure that researchers and participants are protected and that they pass ethical guidelines for working with vulnerable people and humans in general.

Hypothesis/Hypotheses: a statement that says what a researcher thinks the results of a research project will be.

Impact factor: a rating that tells us how influential a particular academic journal is.

Independent Variable: represent the inputs or causes which may be tested to see to see if they 'cause' the outcome or effect (dependent variable).

For example, a researcher might look to see if gender (man, woman, non-binary etc.) impacts on strength or running speed or autistic characteristics.



Information: facts and knowledge which give us understanding and appreciation of the meaning, enabling us to stay informed and be aware. This points us towards what we need to know.

Informed Consent: consent given by people before they participate in research. People, from whom consent is sought, are to be fully informed of the research aims, methods and what they will need to do to participate.

Intellectual Property: work/study/research/writing/digital content that an individual has completed and to whom that work belongs. Sometimes if we study at a university, that institution 'owns' the work we do, meaning that the university has the right to the 'intellectual property' rather than the individual who completed the work.

Intervention: anything a researcher does to a participant (or asks the participant to do) that is different from the participant's normal life (for example, taking medication).

Interview: a data collection method in which a researcher talks to a participant and asks questions about the research topic.



J

Juxtaposition: two ways of looking at something by placing or dealing with them close together for contrasting effect.

K

Key Terms: the technical terms of an industry or field. Single words or phrases that unpack more than the literal definition of that word or phrase.

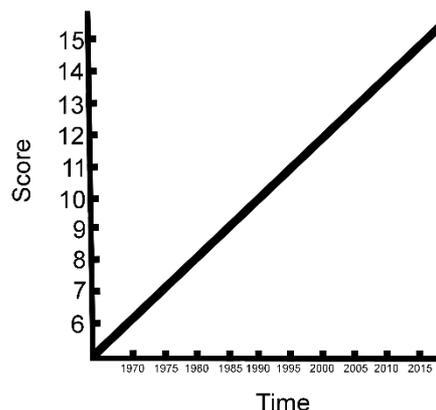
L

Likert scale: a scale, commonly used on surveys, where a number or statements are issued and the participant specifies their level of agreement or disagreement.

Longitudinal Study: a research study that involves repeated observations of the same variables over long periods of time. For example, in the television series called *7-Up*, the same group of participants were videoed about their lives every 7 years.



Linear: in a line or across sequential time.
Sometimes we use linear graphs or studies to show changes across time in a linear fashion.



M

Major project: the key work of the research. Sometimes there are lesser projects, which are minor projects.

Masters: a period of study undertaken after a bachelor's degree which can be either coursework or a research project. Masters usually takes 2 years.

Material governance: set procedures and processes that govern the relevant practice.

Medical model of disability: attributes disability to a medical diagnosis meaning that if you are medically compromised you are disabled by your medical condition. See also social model of disability.

Memorandum of understanding (MOU): A written document outlaying the guidelines and principles of the understanding between the parties involved.

Medical Research Ethics Committee (MREC): a group of individuals who assess

the ethical qualities of the medical practice or medical interventions prescription.

Meta-analysis: the process of combining results from a number of studies.

For example, combining the results from a few different research studies which assessed the same early intervention program.

Method/Methods: the tools a researcher uses to collect data (for example, surveys or interviews), and to analyse data (for example, statistics).

Methodology: how a researcher answers a research question, and why they answer it the way they do.

Mixed Methods Research: uses both quantitative and qualitative methods for data collection.

Morbidity: refers to disease, illness or injury. Sometimes we refer to people having co-morbid conditions.

For example, many adults on the spectrum experience comorbid anxiety. The anxiety co-exists alongside being autistic.

Mortality: A term used to refer to dying. A medical study may report the mortality (death rate) for people in the control (treatment as usual) versus the experimental condition (new drug).

N

Narrative enquiry: a form of qualitative research where data, such as interviews, letters, stories, or photos, are used to understand people's experiences and the way they create meaning.

National Ethics Application Form (NEAF): a form used when applying to an appointed national body (group of people) for ethics clearance at the national level.

National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC): a group of individuals who are responsible for granting or not granting funding for various projects.

Null and Void: ceases to apply. Typically means that a contract or agreement is no longer valid or enforceable.

O

Observation: an approach to data collection where researchers examine participants in their natural settings.

For example, the researcher observed the children in the playground to see how they interacted with others.

Observational research: research that involves observing participants in their normal lives.

Operation: the action or the work being done.

Other participants: individuals or an agency who directly support the workings of an organisation by donating time or funds to the work of that organisation.

Outcome: the end result of the research.

P

Participant: someone who joins with others in a venture. In research, a person who takes part in a research study or experiment.

Participatory Research: research that shares equal access and value amongst its participants and researchers.

Peer Review: an independent assessment of a research publication by other researchers with expertise in the field.

PhD: Doctor of Philosophy. It usually requires a three-year full-time research program undertaken by a student and supervised by one or two academics thus enabling the student to become an independent researcher in their own right.

Participant Information Sheet (PIS): a document that explains a research project to potential participants.

Positivism: the belief that knowledge is either true or not true, and research should be objective (meaning it shouldn't be influenced by the researcher).

Post-Doctoral Fellow: person who has completed a PhD and is working with a mentor to develop their research career and independence as a researcher. Typically these fellowships are funded by universities or specific research grants.

Post-test: an attempt to measure the effectiveness of the intervention; measurement or testing of a variable (factor) after an intervention or treatment is provided.



For example, researchers would retest knowledge of students after trying a different teaching method.



Power: a person (or a group)'s ability to influence another person (or group).

Power imbalance: when one person (or group) has more power than another person (or group).

Pragmatism: the belief that discovering what is true is less important than discovering what is useful, and that researchers should do whatever works to answer their research question/s.

Pre-test: A method of discovering the starting point; measurement or testing of a variable/factor before an intervention or treatment is provided.

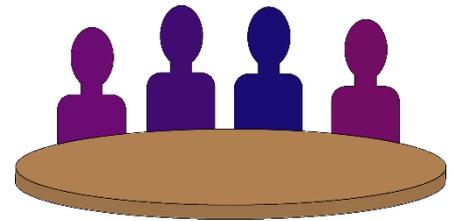
For example, researchers might look at a child's reading age before a literacy intervention occurs.



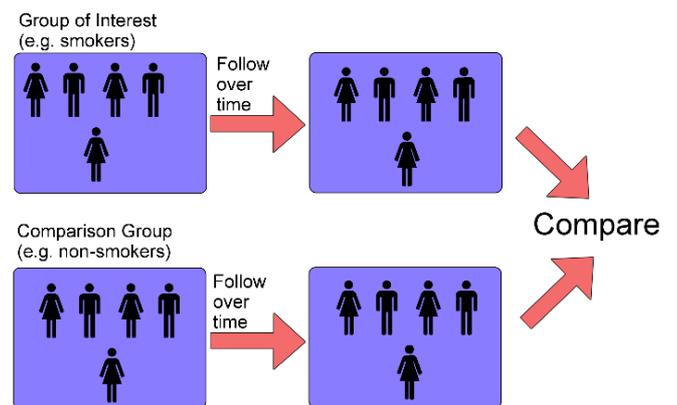
Pre-verbal: Before an individual uses spoken language.

Private: Information not available to people.

Project Advisory Group: a small group of people who are skilled in their area and who can advise a larger group, Board, or researchers of issues and opinions pertinent to the item of interest.



Prospective Study: a longitudinal study that looks forward in time.



Publication record: a list of all the publications that a researcher has written to disseminate their research findings.

Purposive sampling: where a research chooses certain people to be participants in their research study who can best answer the question.

For example, the researcher asked school principals to participate in research about the barriers to schools using evidence-based practices.

p-value: see statistical significance.



Q

Qualitative Research: research using data that describes concepts, thoughts, or experiences (“qualities”), usually in words.

Quantitative Research: research investigating variables that can be measured as numbers (or “quantities”).

Qualitative	Quantitative
Confusing Timing Good Art Ambiguous	6.022×10^{23} 44% 20mm 2163.48
Efficient Repetitive Annoying Old	18.5 x 51mm
Digital Slow	69\$.357 inch

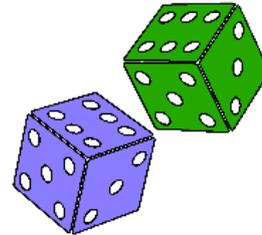
Questions: surveys and interviews asking questions that require answers are the chosen method to gather information in qualitative research. In quantitative research, questions are asked that require such answers as ticking a box or selecting a level on a graded scale like a Likert Scale.

R

R and D: research and development.

Random: chosen in no order or a lack of pattern.

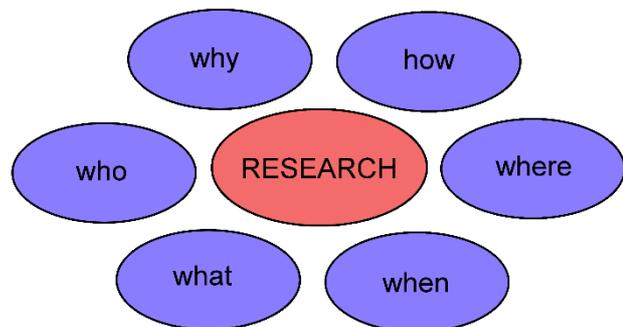
For example, drawing names out of a barrel.



Randomised Control Trial (RCT): a type of experiment where the people being studied are randomly allocated to different groups (experimental group or control group). RCTs are often used to test the effectiveness of various types of intervention and the random allocation minimises bias.

Reliability: how consistent the results of research are.

Research: to access, compare and assess various sources of information; to explore, look at, investigate, find reasons for or answers to. To work in a particular way to understand or find a reason for something, or to answer a questions.



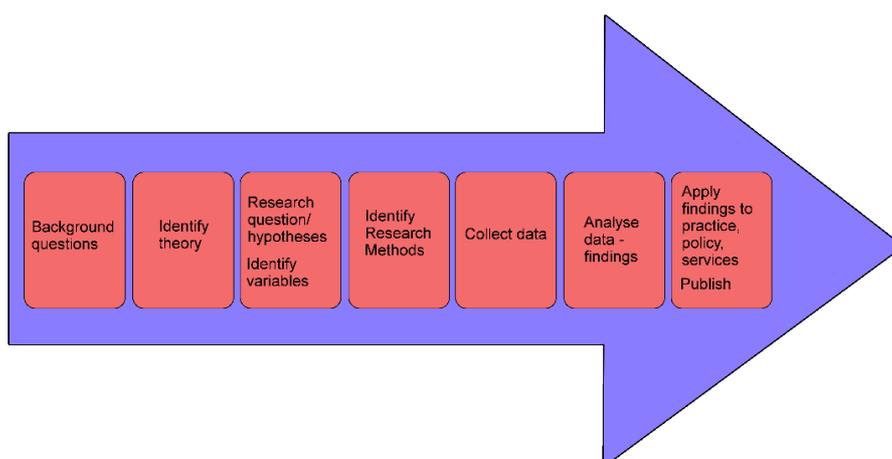
Research based practice: everyday teaching/ therapy or health activities that are informed by or based on research findings.

Research design: a plan for how the research will be done to best answer the research question or test the hypotheses.

Research findings/Research outcomes: the results of a research project and the new knowledge the research has created.

Research Methods: how the research will be conducted; the strategies and techniques that researchers use to collect data. Research methods include participant observation, questionnaires, focus groups, case studies etc.

Research Process: steps undertaken to reach the goal of the research. This process is to produce new knowledge or deepen understanding of a topic or issue. The research process is shown in the illustration below.



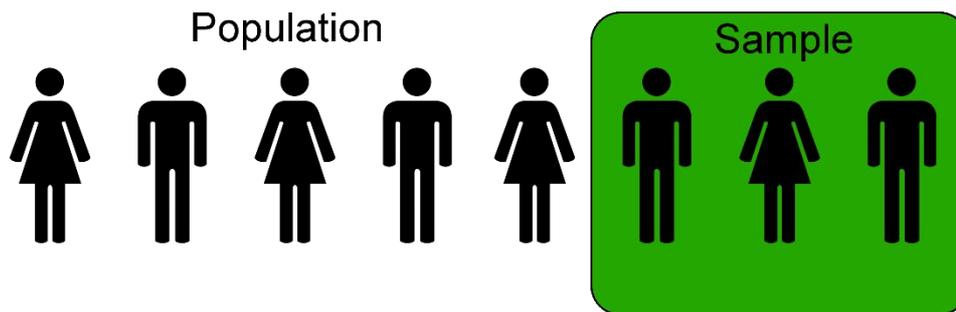
Research question: the main question a researcher wants to answer when they conduct a research project.

Retrospective Study: a longitudinal study that looks back in or over time. For example, researching adults on the spectrum and their experiences in childhood.

Rigour: the extent to which the research will stand up to investigation by future researchers and critiques.

S

Sample: a group of people, chosen from the population of interest, to participate in research or an experiment. It may also mean the product being tested. For example, ‘... a sample was chosen to test for prescription drug use.’



Sequential design: a mixed methods research design in which quantitative and qualitative data are collected at different times.

Social model of disability: attributes the experience of disability to society and the environment rather than an impairment in the person. For example, not having a wheelchair ramp to a building is disabling, as are negative societal attitudes.

Statistical significance: the result is likely to be attributable to a specific cause, rather than having occurred by chance alone. A p-value is statistically calculated and if this is below 0.05, or sometimes 0.001, then the results are considered statistically significant. In this instance, the hypothesis is supported.

Subject: may refer to the idea, heading, concept or matter under discussion, example, the subject for the research.

It may also be used to label the research participants for the research, example: the subjects were assigned to either the experimental group or the control group.

Summary: the condensed form; a shortened version; to sum up or put a conclusion to the work.

Supervisor: person with a PhD who oversees and advises students undertaking Honours, Masters by research, or PhD study.

Survey: a method of data collection in which participants respond to a series of questions. Surveys may include check boxes, ratings, etc.

Symposium or conference: a gathering for academic sharing or a coming together to hear the work presented.

Systematic review: a type of literature review that evaluates and synthesis results of multiple studies that meet specific inclusion criteria.

T

Texts: sources of qualitative research data, including words, pictures, audio recordings, etc.

Theme: the main ideas that a researcher identifies in their qualitative data; a group of alike data. See thematic analysis.

Theory/Theoretical: an idea that is intended to explain something.

T scores: standardised statistical scores used to compare two means (averages) to establish whether there are any statistically significant differences between them.

Terms of Reference (TOR): the terms of the agreement that refer to the expectations, boundaries and other procedures that are laid out in a contract or document.

Thematic analysis: a categorizing strategy for analyzing qualitative data. Researchers review their data, make notes sort it into categories or themes.

Transcript: a written or typed version of what was said during an interview or focus group.

Trustworthiness: how much we can trust the findings in qualitative research (the qualitative version of rigour).

V

Validity: an indication of how accurate and credible the research is. Applies to the research methods and design.

Variable(s): what we measure in research; the characteristic or attribute of an individual, group, system or the environment that is of interest in a research study. All research projects are based around variables, which can also be called factors.

For example, a variable in an education program may be the individual teacher presenting the material to be learned.

Verbal: Able to use spoken language.

W

Window: a defined period of time; a view or opportunity to take a clear look at a behaviour or event. For example, there was a window of opportunity each day to observe teachers reading to students.

X

X: typically, the horizontal axis on a graph.

Y

Y: typically, the vertical axis on a graph.

Z

Z-scores: a standardised statistical measurement used to show how far and in what direction an item deviates from its distribution's mean. It is expressed in units of its distribution's standard deviation.



Glossary of Metaphors

Beer and skittles: a common expression used to imply something is or isn't fun. For example, 'it takes a lot of work; it's not all fun and games'.

Gangbusters: originally meant with great initial excitement, speedily, with a strong start, or with immediate success. The idiom originally came from the midcentury American radio program *Gang Busters*, which began each episode with great excitement and vigor (i.e., with lots of loud sound effects).

Guinea pig: a generic term that implies an individual is consenting to take part in an experiment; a test case. Based on the fact that animals such as guinea pigs were used a lot for experimental testing. For example, 'I need some guinea pigs to eat this special dietary food for a week and tell me if it made them feel better'. Also used to describe times when you feel you are being experimented on without consent.

Hell for leather: going as hard and fast as one can manage. For example, driving your car as fast as it can go, dancing with as much exuberance as possible.

Housekeeping: information provided at the start of a conference or session that relates not to the content but to the management of the session. For example, instructions for responding to a fire alarm; pointing out where the toilets are, giving general information that people need to be safe and comfortable.

Ice breaker: a term used to denote a game or activity designed to facilitate people who have just met to get to know each other.



In a nutshell: term used to state the summary of events or circumstances but in a concise or brief manner.

In the deep end: implying a person will be moving into a situation they are not prepared for and won't know what to expect. Can also mean willingly trying something new and giving it your best effort even though it is unfamiliar.

In the same boat: used to imply 'we are in this together' and that whatever affects one affects all. Also can mean a separate group or person who is involved in a similar situation. For example, another person in a different company also lost their employment and so are in the same boat as you.

Jump in boots and all: used to suggest a person chooses to take on a challenge, whatever it may bring.

Lab rat: implies an individual has offered to allow themselves to be the test case for a venture (see also guinea pig). For example, agreeing to test a new system in the workplace.

Lone soldier: someone who takes on the work, the fight, the battle on their own and doesn't call on support from others.

Nitty gritty: the uncomfortable and mundane details of an event, project or task that may not be interesting but need to be done.

Out of the blue: a term used when something unexpected happens.



Pear shaped: when plans or events don't work out as hoped; when it all goes wrong.

Reinvent the wheel: used to suggest this has been done before and doesn't need doing again. In other words, there is no need to create a new way to do something when the current way is perfectly satisfactory.

Role play: to act out and/or demonstrate a scenario.

Sounding them out: testing to ascertain how someone feels about taking part in a task or taking on some responsibility. May also refer to testing out how an idea or a speech or a plan etc. sounds to another person.

Straw man: a term used to suggest something isn't very strong or not up to the job. Straw man is also common form of argument and is an informal fallacy based on giving the impression of refuting an opponent's argument, while actually refuting an argument which was not advanced by that opponent.

Talk to the paper: when a person or persons explain the information, analogies, diagrams and so on, that are written down on a paper or poster. The paper or poster might be on show at a conference.

Top and tail (topping and tailing): an expression used when a researcher gives information about the introduction and conclusion of a project but leaves the middle details out.

Win/win: a term used when all stake holders win, whatever side they are on. A positive outcome for all involved.

Winging it: meaning to pass or get by without full access to the whole story. For example, to make a presentation without preparation.