

Nursing Research

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Research

- Research is the *systematic collection, analysis* and *interpretation of data* to answer a certain question or solve a problem
- It is crucial to follow cascading scientific steps when conducting one's research



- **A research study begins as a problem that a researcher would like to solve**

or

- **as a question (or set of questions) that a researcher would like to answer.**



The question or problem often evolves from a broad topic area, and researchers usually find it necessary to devote some time to delimiting and explicating the problem.



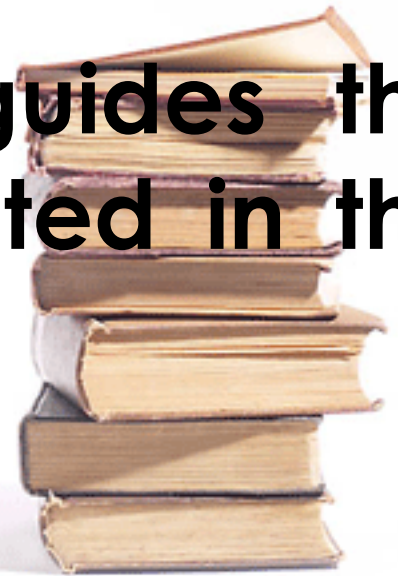
- **At the most general level, researcher is interested in a topic, which is sometimes referred to as the focus of the research**
- **Examples of research topics are adolescent smoking, patient compliance, coping with disability, coronary heart disease, and pain management.**



- **The problem of disciplined research is to “solve” the problem---or to contribute to its solution---by accumulating sufficient information to lead to understanding or explaining it.**



- **Research Question**
- **A research question is a statement of the specific query the researcher wants to answer to address the research problem.**
- **The Research question guides the type of data to be collected in the study.**



Types of Questions



There are three basic types of questions that research projects can address:

Descriptive

When a study is designed primarily to describe what is going on or what exists.



Relational

When a study is designed to look at the relationships between two or more variables.



Causal

When a study is designed to determine whether one or more variables (e.g., a program or treatment variable) causes or affects one or more outcome variables.



A Research Question Must Identify

1. The variables under study
2. The population being studied
3. The testability of the question



What is a researchable question?

- Helps solve a problem, add to theory, or improve nursing practice
- Needs to be usable, current, and clear
- Provides answers that will explain, describe, identify, predict or qualify



Guidelines for writing research questions

- Start with a simple question
 - Has one stem and one topic
- Action-oriented
- The way you ask a question determines how you will answer it



Criteria for developing a good research question: FINER

- Feasibility
- Interesting
- Novel
- Ethical
- Relevant

– Cummings et al. 2001



FINER

- Feasible
 - Subjects
 - Resources
 - Manageable
 - Data available?
- Interesting
- Novel
 - In relation to previous findings
 - Confirm or refute?
 - New setting, new population
- Ethical
 - Social or scientific value
 - Safe
- Relevant
 - Advance scientific knowledge?
 - Influence clinical practice?
 - Impact health policy?
 - Guide future research?



Thank you

