LEARNING OUTCOMES

After reading and reviewing Chapter 2, you should understand

- The difference between a primary and secondary research source
- How to identify scholarly works
- How to find different types of scholarly works
- The parts of a primary research article
- Ways to build on past research to develop your research study
- The basics of APA format

CHAPTER SUMMARY

Chapter 2 focuses on finding and evaluating past research on a topic. The chapter is designed to help you discern different sources, including the difference between primary and secondary sources, the difference between scholarly and popular sources, and the various types of scholarly work that you might find in an academic journal (i.e., primary research articles, literature reviews, and commentaries) as well as other scholarly sources (conference papers and posters, unpublished manuscripts, books, theses and dissertations, etc.). You will also learn the various ways to search for relevant research.

How to read and evaluate primary research articles is another major focus of this chapter. The key sections of a primary research article are outlined and their purpose discussed. An article on the topic of academic achievement is used to illustrate the different parts of a research article, and finding and referring to this article will greatly enhance your understanding of key concepts. Toward the end of the chapter, you will find suggestions for how to build on past research. The chapter ends with an ethics tip on how to avoid plagiarism and specific APA-style guidelines for citing and referencing sources.

REVIEW AND APPLICATION OF KEY CONCEPTS FROM CHAPTER 2

Exercise 2.1: Types of Sources (Review)

1. A __________________ source is one that was written by an expert in a field and is designed to advance knowledge in that field.
2. A _________________ source may have been written by an expert or by a layperson and is designed to educate or entertain.

3. A review of past research without a report of new, original research is a _________________ research source.

4. An article in a newspaper, such as the New York Times, is a _________________ source, but it may be either a primary or secondary research source depending on what the article covers.

5. An article reporting results of an original research study is a _________________ research source, and it would also be considered _________________ if it was written by and for experts in the field.

Exercise 2.2: Types of Scholarly Works (Review)

1. True or false? An article in an academic journal is a scholarly source, but it may be either a primary or secondary research source depending on what the article covers. ______________

2. Literature reviews, meta analyses, and commentaries are examples of _________________ research sources.

3. Most academic journals include a _________________, in which work is reviewed by experts in the field.

4. The best type of source for a high-quality report of original research is the _________________.

5. _________________ and _________________ tend to be more recent works than primary research articles, although they may not undergo as rigorous a peer review process.

Exercise 2.3: Types of Sources (Application)

1. The comedian Aziz Ansari wrote a book called Modern Romance. In addition to sharing personal anecdotes, he reports results of interviews and focus groups that he and his research partner conducted.
   a. Is this a popular or scholarly source? _________________
   b. Are the reports of interviews and focus groups a primary or secondary research source? _________________

2. Paul Eastwick, PhD, and his colleagues conducted a meta-analysis examining the role of physical attractiveness in dating preferences and actual
dating behaviors. Their findings were published in 2014 in the academic journal *Psychological Bulletin*.

a. Is this a popular or scholarly source?

b. Is their article a primary or secondary research source?

3. Günter Hitsch, PhD, and his colleagues conducted a study examining online dating behavior. Their findings were published in 2010 in the academic journal *Quantitative Marketing and Economics*.

a. Is this a popular or scholarly source?

b. Is their article a primary or secondary research source?

4. “Dating: One Key Determinant of Who Winds up Together” is an article on the website ScienceofRelationships.com. The author of the article, Gary Lewandowski, PhD, summarizes the results of two different research studies (neither of which he conducted) and explains what the results mean to the average person.

a. Is this a popular or scholarly source?

b. Is this article a primary or secondary research source?

5. Use Figure 2.1 in the textbook to help you answer the following questions.

a. Which of the sources from questions 1 to 4 above might you use to generate ideas for a research topic but not include in your written report?

b. Which of the sources from questions 1 to 4 above might you use to identify patterns and gaps in past research and to help you identify original research sources?

c. Which of the sources from questions 1 to 4 above represents the type of source that should make up the majority of your sources for a research project?
6. Imagine you were using the online search engine Google (likely against your professor’s recommendations) and you came across a report of original research.
   a. How would you determine whether or not the source was a scholarly one?

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   b. Suppose that you determine the source is, in fact, scholarly. How else should you evaluate it to determine whether it is appropriate to use as a source for a research project?

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Exercise 2.4: Strategies to Identify and Find Past Research (Application)

Use the Database PsycINFO to answer these questions:

1. Do a search for the article “Honesty and Heroes: A Positive Psychology View of Heroism and Academic Honesty.”
   a. Who are the authors of this article? ________________________________
   b. What is the publication year? ________________________________
   c. Which journal published the article? ________________________________
   d. What is the volume number? __________________
   e. What are the page numbers? __________________
   f. Is this a primary or secondary research source? __________________

2. Use the thesaurus function to identify narrower terms for interpersonal relationships:
   _______________________________________________________________

3. Do a keyword search for “interpersonal attraction,” limiting the search to peer-reviewed articles published in academic journals between 2010 and 2015. How many search results are there? __________________

4. What is the name of the article by Valerie Foster that was published in 2013 in the journal Science?
   _______________________________________________________________

5. How many references are cited in the article about interpersonal attraction by Tidwell, Eastwick, and Finkel (2013)? __________________
Exercise 2.5: Reading and Evaluating Primary Research Articles (Review)

1. List, in order, the key parts of a primary research article:
   a. __________________________________________________________
   b. __________________________________________________________
   c. __________________________________________________________
   d. __________________________________________________________
   e. __________________________________________________________
   f. __________________________________________________________
   g. __________________________________________________________
   h. __________________________________________________________

2. A review of the research appears in the ____________________________.

3. Details about the participants and the procedures for the study are found in the ________________ section.

4. The _____________________ is a brief description of the purpose, method, and results.

5. Detailed results are found in the _____________________________ section, and a summary of the results and their implications are found in the ________________ section.

6. The hypothesis(es) of the study is usually found at the end of the ________________.

7. An explanation of whether or not the results supported the hypothesis(es) is usually found near the beginning of the ________________.

8. Limitations of the current study are explained in the ________________.

9. Limitations of or gaps in past research are explained in the ________________.

10. The ___________________________ section lists all the sources cited in the paper.

Exercise 2.6: Reading and Evaluating a Primary Research Article (Application)

Look at the example published article in Appendix B in the textbook.

1. What is the title of the article? ________________________________
2. Who are the authors? ________________________________

3. Is this a primary or secondary research source? _________________________

4. Can you tell from reading the abstract whether or not the authors conducted an experiment? Why or why not?

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5. Summarize, in your own words, the key point of the first paragraph of the Introduction.

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6. Summarize, in your own words, the key point of the second paragraph of the Introduction.

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7. What is the purpose of the last paragraph in the Introduction?

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8. In your own words, summarize the method of the study.

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9. In your own words, summarize the results of the study.

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10. What is the first limitation noted by the authors? How might a future research study address that limitation?

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Exercise 2.7: APA Format for References (Application)

1. Fill in the blanks:

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<tr>
<th>First citation in text</th>
<th>Later citations</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. ____________________</td>
<td>Foster (2013)</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Estow, Lawrence, &amp; Adams, 2011)</td>
<td>b. (___________________________)</td>
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<tr>
<td>c. ____________________</td>
<td>Kurzban and Weeden (2005)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Li et al. (2013)</td>
<td>d. ____________________</td>
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<tr>
<td>e. (___________________________)</td>
<td>(Buss &amp; Schmitt, 1993)</td>
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2. Write an APA-style reference for the example published article in Appendix B in the textbook.

_____________________________________________________________

3. Find and correct the five APA-format citation errors in the paragraph:

Many of us like to believe that “beauty comes from within” and that inner beauty is more important than physical beauty. However, research suggests that physical attractiveness is the single most important factor that impacts our desire to date someone (Kurzban & Weeden, 2005; Li et al., 2013). An early cross cultural survey conducted by Buss & Schmitt found that across the world physical attractiveness of one’s partner was more important for men than it was for women (1993). A more recent meta-analysis found that gender differences only occur in ratings of ideal romantic partners and ratings of hypothetical targets. Both men and women generally find physical attractiveness equally important in actual face-to-face interactions (Eastwick, Luchies, Finkel & Hunt, 2014). Moreover, although we might all desire an attractive partner, we tend to wind up with someone who matches our level of physical attractiveness (Miller, 2012). Thus our stated preferences do not fully predict our actual dating behaviors (Eastwick, Luchies, Finkel, & Hunt, 2014).

4. Find and correct the five APA-format errors in the references.
References


Exercise 2.8: The Big Picture: Use the Past to Inform the Present (Application)

1. Why is it important for you to know how to find, read, and evaluate past research on a topic?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

2. How does a specific formatting style for references, such as APA format, help make the process of finding past research easier?

________________________________________________________________________

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Do not copy, post, or distribute
YOUR RESEARCH

Find Research on Your Topic

1. What database is most commonly used in your discipline?

2. Using that database, conduct a search for relevant and recent research articles on your topic. Doing this search will help you identify appropriate articles as well as help you refine and revise your research topic. It should take several hours if you do it correctly!
   a. What key words and phrases were most useful for finding relevant articles?
   b. What key words and phrases were least useful?
   c. What other search strategies were helpful for finding articles (e.g., searching by author, looking at references of articles)?
   d. Identify a few of the most relevant and interesting articles. Find the full text of these articles.

Read, Evaluate, and Reference a Primary Research Article on Your Topic

1. Identify and find the full text of a primary research on your topic (or revised topic) that you might model (in other words, you might use a similar method).

2. Write the reference list entry for the article in APA format:
3. Answer the following based on the article, using your own words (do not copy sentences or phrases directly from the article).

a. Briefly, what is the rationale for the study? (Hint: Look in the Introduction.)
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b. Identify one hypothesis from the article that most interests you. (Hint: Hypotheses are usually toward the end of the Introduction section.)
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4. Consider ways to build on the study:

   a. Identify one suggestion for future research that the author(s) identified in the Discussion section of the article and that you think you might be able to do.

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   b. Review the section “Develop Study Ideas Based on Past Research” in Chapter 2 of the textbook. Which one of the four ways to build on past research does your answer to question 4a best fit under?

   __________________________________________________________

   c. Identify one other way that you might build on this study.

   __________________________________________________________
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