

APPENDIX E: A Checklist for Research

(Source: Gay, 1987; Isaac & Michael, 1977)

TITLE

1. Have I precisely identified the problem area with sufficient clarity?
2. Have I included the specifications of the independent and the dependent variables?
3. Have I arranged the words in the title effectively?
4. Have I tried to avoid using irrelevant expressions, unqualified nouns, quotations and underlinings?
5. Have I identified the target population?
6. If I am writing a thesis or dissertation, have I typed the required information on the title page?

INTRODUCTION

1. Have I defined the problem accurately, clearly focusing on the basic difficulty?
2. Have I presented the background of the study by giving a careful analysis of what is known about the problem, and what the suspected facts are? In other words, have I demonstrated the relevance of the existing knowledge to the problem?
3. Have I stated the educational significance of the problem in either basic or applied research by stating clearly the major points to be resolved and/or the objectives to be investigated?
4. Have I mentioned the variables or factors to be studied or investigated; and have I indicated the relationship between these variables or factors?
5. Have I directly or operationally defined the technical terms that may sound unfamiliar to my readers?
6. Have I stated the problem, the question, and the approach to be adopted in a logical and internally consistent manner?
7. Have I clearly specified the questions that I am seeking answers for? In other words, have I clearly stated my assumptions and the specific hypotheses that I aim at testing?
8. If I have deduced any consequences of the research or have made predictions regarding the outcome of the research, are they consistent with my hypotheses?
9. Am I sure that the hypotheses I have specified are testable?
10. Have I defined the scope of the study by mentioning what aspects to include, and what to exclude, regarding the topic and the problem area? Have I given justification for the inclusions and the exclusions I have made?

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

1. Are the investigations and studies cited in this section adequate and relevant to the problem under investigation?
2. Have I compiled a comprehensive review of literature?
3. Have I critically analyzed the studies I have cited, and have I compared and contrasted these results?
4. Have I avoided reviewing these studies only in the form of abstracts and annotations?

5. Have I developed an appropriate rational or theoretical framework from these cited research studies by concluding the chapter with a brief summary on the implications of these studies for the problem I have been investigating?

PROCEDURES

1. Have I given the size of the sample and the major characteristics of my subjects?
2. Have I indicated whether I have studied the entire population?
3. Have I clearly explained my method of selecting the sample?
4. Have I clearly explained my method of sample selection (e.g. random assignment, matching, voluntary, etc.)?
5. Am I sure that I have not been biased in the selection of my subjects?
6. Is the number of my subjects sufficient to apply the research method I have adopted?
7. Do my subjects really represent the whole population?
8. Have I given sufficient information about the reliability, validity, and standardization properties of the instruments I have used for testing purposes?
9. Have I described the procedure I have applied in a logical sequence?
10. Have I clearly demonstrated the relationship between the method adopted and the research questions formulated?
11. Have I appropriately discussed the way I will conduct the method and the way I will keep the procedure under control so that another researcher who wants to replicate my study can make use of it properly?
12. Have I specified how the null (statistical) hypotheses relate to my research hypotheses?
13. Were there any uncontrollable instances? If so, have I clearly stated them; and have I indicated my assumption for the appearance of such uncontrollable factors?

DATA ANALYSIS AND PRESENTATION

1. Have I been objective in my presentation?
2. Is my analysis consistent with the obtained facts?
3. Have I avoided using overgeneralizations in my analysis?
4. Have I tested every hypothesis I formulated at the beginning of my study?
5. Have I described the tests of significance appropriately?
6. Have I made a distinction between my findings and my interpretations?
7. Are the tables and graphs well designed? Are they easy to understand?
8. Have I interpreted the test of significance appropriately and clearly, referring to tables and graphs?

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

1. Have I indicated the relationship of my findings to the previously conducted research cited in the 'Review of Literature' section?
2. Have I discussed the effect of data collection method on my research design by pointing out the strong and/or the weak points?
3. Have I discussed the theoretical and practical implications of my findings?
4. Have I paid attention to not confusing the statistical significance and the practical significance of my findings?
5. Have I brought to the attention of my reader, once again, the scope of my study?

7. Have I made a brief summary of all my findings, indicating whether the research hypotheses are accepted or rejected?
8. In relation to my field of study, have I made some recommendations for future research?

REFERENCES AND APPENDICES

1. Am I using the style (APA or MLA) proper for my field of study?
2. Am I consistent in using the same style through out the study?
3. Have I included all the works of scholars that I have cited in the study in my reference list?
4. Have I been careful in providing the correct dates both in the study and the reference list?
5. Have I correctly number the Appendices?
6. Does the number of the Appendix cited in the study correspond with the number of the Appendix given at the end of the study?