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Difference between exploratory descriptive and explanatory research pdf

When you start planning a research project, developing research questions and creating a research design, you will have to make various decisions about the type of research you want to do. There are many ways to categorize different types of research. The words you use to describe your research depend on your discipline and field. In general, though, the form your research design takes will be shaped by: The type of knowledge you aim to produce The type of data you will collect and analyze The sampling methods, timescale and location of the research This article takes a look at some common distinctions made between different types of research and outlines the key differences between them. Types of research aims The first thing to consider is what kind of knowledge your research aims to contribute. Type of research What's the difference? What to consider Basic vs. applied Basic research aims to develop knowledge, theories and predictions, while applied research aims to develop techniques, products and procedures. [pronoun antecedent worksheet with answer key](#) Do you want to expand scientific understanding or solve a practical problem? Exploratory research vs. explanatory research Exploratory research aims to explore the main aspects of an under-researched problem, while explanatory research aims to explain the causes and consequences of a well-defined problem. How much is already known about your research problem? Are you conducting initial research on a newly-identified issue, or seeking precise conclusions about an established issue? Inductive vs. deductive research Inductive research aims to develop a theory, while deductive research aims to test a theory. Is there already some theory on your research problem that you can use to develop hypotheses. or do you want to propose new theories based on your findings? [script writing cheat sheet](#) Types of research data The next thing to consider is what type of data you will collect. Each kind of data is associated with a range of specific research methods and procedures. Type of research What's the difference? What to consider Primary research vs secondary research Primary data is collected directly by the researcher (e.g., through interviews or experiments), while secondary data has already been collected by someone else (e.g., in government surveys or scientific publications). How much data is already available on your topic? Do you want to collect original data or analyze existing data (e.g., through a literature review)? Qualitative vs quantitative Qualitative research methods focus on words and meanings, while quantitative research methods focus on numbers and statistics. Is your research more concerned with measuring something or interpreting something? You can also create a mixed methods research design that has elements of both. Descriptive research vs experimental research Descriptive research gathers data without controlling any variables, while experimental research manipulates and controls variables to determine cause and effect. Do you want to identify characteristics, patterns and correlations or test causal relationships between variables? Types of sampling, timescale, and location Finally, you have to consider three closely related questions: how will you select the subjects or participants of the research? [fezowujemunofaxo.pdf](#) When and how often will you collect data from your subjects? And where will the research take place? Keep in mind that the methods that you choose bring with them different risk factors and types of research bias. Biases aren't completely avoidable, but can heavily impact the validity and reliability of your findings if left unchecked. Type of research What's the difference? What to consider Probability vs non-probability sampling Probability sampling allows you to generalize your findings to a broader population, while non-probability sampling allows you to draw conclusions only about the specific subjects of the research. Do you want to produce generalizable knowledge that applies to many contexts or detailed knowledge about a specific context (e.g. in a case study)? Cross-sectional study vs longitudinal study Cross-sectional studies gather data at a single point in time, while longitudinal studies gather data at several points in time. Is your research question focused on understanding the current situation or tracking changes over time? Field research vs laboratory research Field research takes place in a natural or real-world setting, while laboratory research takes place in a controlled and constructed setting. Do you want to find out how something occurs in the real world or draw firm conclusions about cause and effect?

A Comparison of Basic Research Designs			
	Exploratory	Descriptive	Causal
Objective	Discovery of ideas and insights.	Describe market characteristics or functions.	Determine cause and effect relationships.
Character-istics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Flexible.▪ Versatile.▪ Often the front end of total research design.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Marked by the prior formulation of specific hypotheses.▪ Preplanned and structured design.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Manipulation of one or more independent variables.▪ Control of other mediating variables.
Method	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Expert surveys.▪ Pilot surveys.▪ Case studies.▪ Secondary data (qualitative).▪ Qualitative Research.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Secondary data (quantitative).▪ Surveys.▪ Panels.▪ Observational and other data.	Experiments. <div></div>

Laboratory experiments have higher internal validity but lower external validity. Fixed design vs flexible design In a fixed research design the subjects, timescale and location are set before data collection begins, while in a flexible design these aspects may develop through the data collection process. Do you want to test hypotheses and establish generalizable facts, or explore concepts and develop understanding?

Case selection		
Exploratory	Explanatory	Single case
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Aim to find as many different types as possible, so describe lots of cases in limited detail (to allow classification, taxonomy)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Select to allow theory testing through comparison & contrast, e.g. max variability/ extremes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ‘The one next door’ or extreme/revealing case• Use theory to explain how & why something happens by looking in detail at inter-relationships and inner workings of case

For measuring, testing and making generalizations, a fixed research design has higher validity and reliability. Choosing between all these different research types is part of the process of creating your research design, which determines exactly how your research will be conducted. But the type of research is only the first step: next, you have to make more concrete decisions about your research methods and the details of the study. Read more about creating a research design If you want to cite this source, you can copy and paste the citation or click the “Cite this Scribbr article” button to automatically add the citation to our free Citation Generator. [kingdom of the wicked pdf português](#) McCombes, S. (2023, January 03). Types of Research Designs Compared | Guide & Examples. Scribbr. Retrieved May 25, 2023, from In order to continue enjoying our site, we ask that you confirm your identity as a human. Thank you very much for your cooperation.