
A Model for the Process of Informational Research

This tutorial looks at informational research, such as that done in the humanities and in literature reviews in the social sciences and sciences.

A great deal of what passes for student research these days is just a process of gathering data, synthesizing it, and reporting on what you have found.
You gather information from various sources...

Data Synthesis

... and once you have enough information, you read through it, gain an understanding of what you've read and then explain your understanding in an essay, referring to and quoting from your sources as needed.

The Taliban are beyond the border rights of women. The arrival of ha...
This, however, is not really research. The goal of research is **not** to compile and report on information but to use information as a **tool** to solve a **problem** or deal with an **issue**. Let's look at a model for this kind of research.

The Taliban are beyond the border rights of women. The arrival of the best despite the best.

Genuine research begins with a question that focuses on some problem or issue that needs to be addressed.

Analysis in light of question
For example: To what extent do the Taliban represent a genuine vision of Islam?

This question, which is highly controversial in itself, demands that you study Taliban teaching about Islam in relation to the teachings of Islam's holy books or mainstream teachings, to determine to what extent they reflect traditional Islamic teaching and to what extent they deviate from such teaching.
For example: To what extent do the Taliban represent a genuine vision of Islam?

Armed with the question, you begin analysing your data with a view to determining what information is relevant and how it contributes to answering the question.

For example: To what extent do the Taliban represent a genuine vision of Islam?

Your analysed data now becomes information, that is, processed material that can now help you answer your question.
For example: To what extent do the Taliban represent a genuine vision of Islam?

Think of information as data that has been thought through, organized into various points of view, and so on. In that form you can look at it properly so that the answer to your question can emerge.

Analysis in light of question

The result is a research paper which evaluates the information, presenting various viewpoints, debating them, and coming up with an answer to your question in the form of a conclusion.