

# Research Methodology

## Lecture 6

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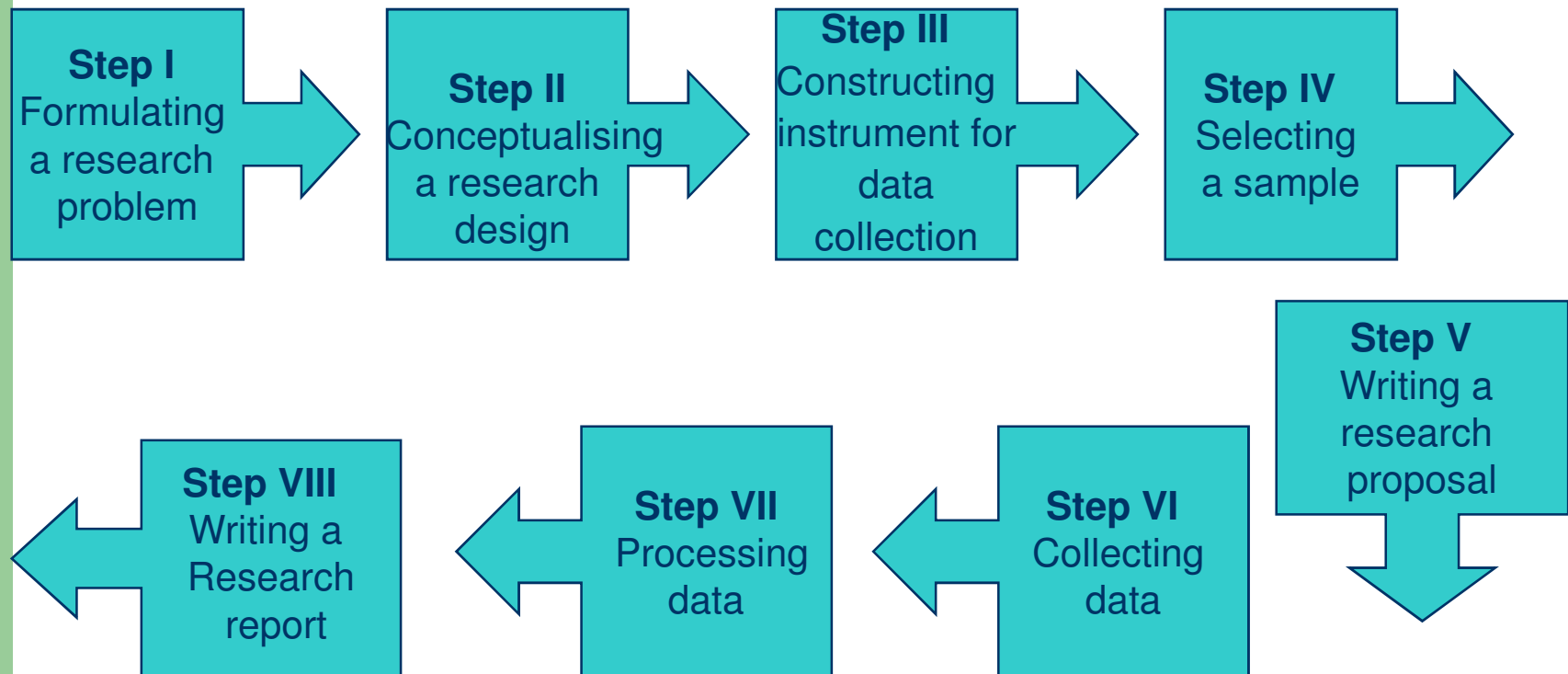
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# Lecture outline

- Cont. Research process: an 8-step model
  - **Step V Writing a research proposal**
  - **Referencing**

# The research process: an 8-step model



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# The research proposal

- *What* you are proposing to do? And *Why*?
- *How* you plan to proceed? And *Why*?

# Writing proposals

- Decide where the proposal will be submitted
- Organise a team and designate a leader
- Follow the guidelines of the funding agency
- Establish a timetable
- Find a model proposal
- Revise repeatedly

# Developing a time-frame for your study

To be completed by *(weeks or months)*

Tasks	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Proposal writing	→											
Instrument construction		→										
Data collection				→								
Coding							→					
Data analysis								→				
Report										→		
Typing											→	

# Elements of a research proposal , based on the NIH Model

- **Title**
- **Abstract**
- **Table of contents**
- **Introduction**
- **Specific aims and objectives**

# Cont. Elements of a research proposal

## ● **Methods**

- Overview of design
- Study subjects
  - **Selection criteria**
  - **Design for sampling**
- Measurements
  - **Identifying variables**
- Statistical issues
  - **Approach to statistical analysis**
  - **Hypotheses and sample size estimates**
- Quality control and data management
- Timetable and organizational chart



## **Cont. Elements of a research proposal**

- **Ethical considerations**
- **Consultants and arrangements between institutions**
- **References**
- **Appendices**

# Why bother to cite references?

- To acknowledge the work of other writers
- To demonstrate the body of knowledge upon which your research is based
- To enable all those who read your work to locate your sources easily

Should I cite?

Is it a quote?

Yes

Cite it and place double quotation marks around the text

No

Is it a paraphrase?

Yes

Cite it

No

Is it another's idea / theory?

Yes

Cite it

No

There is no need to cite if it is common knowledge or your own thoughts

## 2 parts of citing references

- **Citing**

The way a writer refers from the text to the sources used (references)

- **Referencing**

The process of creating a bibliographic description of each sources used

## 2 main citation/reference systems:

- Harvard (name and date)
  - Researchers have demonstrated (James, 2001).....
- Numeric
  - Researchers have demonstrated<sup>1</sup> .....

# Referencing styles

- American medical association AMA
- American psychological association APA
- Chicago
- Example:

Vivekananthan DP, Penn MS, Sapp SK; et al. Use of antioxidant vitamins for the prevention of cardiovascular disease: meta-analysis of randomized trials. *Lancet*. 2003;361(9374):2017-2023

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- Plagiarism?
  - Reference Manager, EndNote?