

The Research Process: Getting Started

Chapter Checklist

After reading this chapter, you should be able to:

1. Describe what a theory is and its role in communication research.
 2. Explain why the research process starts with identifying a research problem.
 3. Develop a preliminary question from a topic or issue.
 4. Explain why a preliminary question is superior to a topic in conducting library research.
 5. Evaluate preliminary questions for their completeness and clarity.
 6. Conduct a search for print and online scholarly resources.
 7. Glean the basic ideas from reading the abstract, literature review, and discussion sections of a research article.
 8. Track a citation back to its original source.
 9. Effectively summarize and report what you have found in the library.
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