Empirical Research: How to Recognize and Locate

Definition:

- An empirical article is a research article that reports the results of a study that uses data derived from actual observation or experimentation.

Parts of a standard empirical research article:

*Note:* Empirical research articles will not necessarily use the exact terms listed below.

- **Abstract** ... A paragraph length description of what the study includes
- **Introduction**...Statement of the hypotheses for the research and a review of other research on the topic.
- **Review of Literature from other RESEARCH**
- **Method** ... A description of how the research was conducted, such as:
  - Who are participants
  - Design of the study
  - What the participants did
  - What measures were used
- **Results**... The results section describes the outcomes of the measures of the study.
- **Discussion**... The discussion section contains the interpretations and implications of the study.
- **References**... A references, or bibliography, will contain citation information on the material cited in the report.

Characteristics of an Empirical Article:

- Empirical articles will include charts, graphs, or statistical analysis.
- Empirical research articles are usually substantial, are likely to be from 8-40 pages long, dissertations much longer.
- There is always a Reference list found at the end of the article.

Type of Publications

- Empirical research articles are published in **scholarly or academic journals** (not Magazines or Newspapers)
  These journal are also called “peer-reviewed,” or “refereed” publications.
- Examples of such publications include:
  - American Journal of Sociology,
  - Sociological Quarterly,
  - Sociological Methods and Research.
Databases that contain empirical research: (selected list only)

Be sure to check the box for Peer-Review when searching.

- **Academic Search Premier**
  to your search terms try adding *method* or *research* or *research design* or *survey* or *data* or *result*
- **PsycINFO**
  limit your searches by Form/Content Type to Empirical Study
- **ERIC limit to Pub. Type to Reports - Research/Technical**
  Change one dropdown box to Record Type=143. This finds REPORTS--RESEARCH.
- **Sociological Abstracts 1963 - present.**
- **Sports Discus**
  Change search limit to Level = Advanced for original scientific research
- **ProQuest**
- **ProQuest - Dissertations**
- **EbscoHost**

Parts taken form:

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