

What Makes University or Academic Research Different

1. Introduction

1.1 Start

What Makes University or Academic Research Different?

1.2 Welcome

Welcome to *What Makes University or Academic Research Different?*

You can listen to or view the contents of this tutorial on the left menu. To navigate forward click the NEXT button located in the bottom right hand corner of this screen.

1.3 Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this tutorial, you will be able to:

- Articulate features that make academic research unique.
- Recognize how scholars operate and conduct scholarly work.
- Understand that scholars begin with existing knowledge to determine research direction.
- Recognize that citing others' work establishes your credibility.
- Understand that the evidence you find and use establishes your credibility and the credibility of your research.

2. How Academic Research is Different

2.1 University Research

University research is more demanding than the research you may have done in high school.

As an ASU student, you are part of the scholarly community at the core of the university, so it is important to learn how scholars conduct their work.

After all, in addition to teaching, your professors are also researchers.

2.2 University Scholars

Research differs from one discipline to another, but all disciplines share similar scholarly goals.

For university scholars, research is a process of discovery leading to new knowledge and insights. Scholarship begins with existing knowledge to determine research questions. These questions then guide experiments, studies, or analyses.

2.3 Conducting Research

As a university student, you will be trained to conduct research and think like a scholar.

Scholars base their research on the current state of knowledge in their fields. Scholars from the same discipline form collaborative communities and build upon others' research. This expands their research and takes it in new directions.

2.4 Citing

Scholars demonstrate their knowledge of the field by “citing” others’ research.

Citing can be thought of as “using” others’ research as a starting point for new research and insights. Citing others’ research establishes credibility.

2.5 Citing Activity

Read each scenario and decide if it is a reason to cite or not. Drag the phrase box to the correct box.

3. Becoming a Scholar

3.1 Research as Investigation

As an ASU student, you will be asked to behave as a scholar. Think of research as an investigation, with you as the detective looking for relevant evidence to answer a question.

You will need to define a research question, then examine previous research about the question. Finally, you will need to synthesize your findings and draw conclusions to answer your question.

3.2 Evidence

A key to scholarly research is basing your discoveries and conclusions on EVIDENCE.

Plant the word “evidence” firmly in your mind any time you are assigned a research project.

3.3 Research Sources

The web can be valuable when you are conducting research, but your professors will expect you to find scholarly information that is not available on Google.

Even if you find scholarly research sources on the open web, the full text will probably not be available.

3.4 Evidence = Credibility

The evidence you use helps establish the credibility of your research. Using the best evidence available to draw conclusions and answer your research question enhances that credibility.

That is why your professors at ASU are so particular about the sources you use.

3.5 ASU Library Research Databases

As a scholar in training, you need to use the ASU Library web site and research databases. This is where you will find scholarly information and a wealth of other sources!

Unlike the open web, resources found in research databases are credible and predominantly scholarly.

3.6 Scholarly Sources Activity

(Multiple Response, 10 points, 1 attempt permitted)

Which of these sources are most likely to provide authoritative and scholarly evidence for your research?

Correct	Choice
	Wikipedia
	Your friend
X	Scholarly journals
X	Academic books
X	Research databases
	Blogs
	Google
X	A librarian

3.7 Becoming a Scholar

As a partner in your learning, the ASU Library wants you to succeed by thinking about information in a new way.

Your growth as a scholar will depend on your ability to use criteria to evaluate information.

4. Conclusion

4.1 Learning Outcomes

Now that you have completed this tutorial, you can:

- Articulate the features that make academic research unique.
- Recognize how scholars operate and conduct scholarly work.
- Understand that scholars begin with existing knowledge to determine research direction.
- Recognize that citing others' work establishes your credibility.
- Understand that the evidence you find and use establishes your credibility and the credibility of your research.

4.2 Conclusion

Congratulations, you've completed the *What Makes University or Academic Research Different* tutorial!

Click on "Tutorials" to return to the Tutorials page or "Next" to complete a brief quiz.