Module 2 – Research Methods Part 1

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# Study Guide

## Overview

This module covers the general thesis method such as research lifecycle, how to come up with research ideas, conducting literature research, and reference management.

## To Do List

1. Read the list of the documents regarding general research methods and apply the concepts in writing the MS thesis.

## Learning Outcomes

This module directly contributes to the following highlighted course outcomes.

* **acquire an in-depth level of knowledge in the thesis domain area**
* compose, present and defend a scientific inquiry in the IT field in the form of a master’s thesis

After this module, student will be able to:

* Discuss the phases of research lifecycle
* Describe how to generate research ideas
* Discuss how to conduct literature research
* Apply APA style in thesis writing
* List available reference management tools available in KSU

# Research Life Cycle

## Research Life Cycle

Below is a general research life cycle.

## Research Lifecycle, Activities, and Thesis Outcomes

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Lifecycle | Activities | Thesis Outcomes |
| Planning | 1. Form research questions 2. Literature review 3. Identify research partners | 1. Thesis advisor and committee formed 2. One page thesis topic description approved |
| Design | 1. Methods used to address the research questions 2. How data will be collected and analyzed. Or how an information system will be built 3. Project management | 1. Thesis proposal approved by the committee |
| Implementation | 1. Pilot study if necessary 2. Data collection and analysis 3. System development | 1. Conference paper on research ideas, method or pilot study (not required) |
| Dissemination |  |  |

[General Research Sources from KSU Library](https://libguides.kennesaw.edu/c.php?g=503647&p=3448877)

[Tips for Generating Research Ideas](https://libguides.umflint.edu/topics)

[Guideline for Writing Literature Review](https://www.d.umn.edu/~hrallis/guides/researching/litreview.html)

[ADA Reference Style Tutorial](https://research.dom.edu/citationguides/ada)

[Citation Management Tools](https://libguides.kennesaw.edu/c.php?g=503647&p=3448884)