

# INTRODUCTION TO RESEARCH

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# Definition

- Oxford Dictionary : term “ research has French origins and appeared in the 16<sup>th</sup> century
- Rooted in the term “**search**” and defined as “examine *thoroughly*”.
- Research meant an “**act of searching *closely and carefully*”, or *intensive searching*”.**
- First applied to science in 1639 as “*scientific inquiry*” (Godin, 2001)

# The OECD Frascati Manual defines research as:

- **Research within higher education comprises creative work undertaken on a systematic basis in order to increase the stock of knowledge, including of humankind, culture and society, and the use of this stock of knowledge to devise new applications.  
(OECD, 2002:29)**

# The South African Context

- **Understanding social change as a specific focus**
- **Collective and individual development as a fundamental objective**

# Types and Modes of Research

- **Basic research**
- **Strategic research**
- **Applied research**
- **Experimental development**

# Basic Research

- **Experimental or theoretical work to acquire new knowledge of the underlying foundations of phenomena and observable facts without any particular application or use in view**

# Strategic Research

- **Also known as oriented basic research**
- **Carried out with the expectation that it will produce a broad base knowledge**
- **Likely to form the background to the solution of recognised or expected current or future problems or offer possibilities for solving them (OECD, 2002:78)**

# Applied Research

- **Original investigation to acquire new knowledge**
- **Directed towards a specific practical aim or objective**
- **Results intended primarily to be valid for a single or limited number of products, operations, methods or systems**

# Experimental Development

- **Systematic work, drawing on existing knowledge gained from research and practical experience**
- **Directed to produce new materials, products and devices, installing new processes, systems and services, and substantially improving those already produced or installed**
- **This category has little or no meaning for the humanities (OECD, 2002:79)**