



Research Stages

Stage	Topic	Timeline	Comments
1	Research Question Can take time to refine!		
2	Literature Review Time consuming, don't take short cuts.		
3	Research Methods Decisions can be made quickly, based on lit.		
4	Data collection design Takes a while, especially when piloting it.		
5	Data gathering Can be slow depending on your methods.		
6	Analysing your data Spend time on getting this right.		
7	Organizing your findings Spend time on getting this right.		
8	Presentation formats Decisions can be made quickly.		
9	Presentation contents Not too time consuming if you have done 6 and 7 well.....!		

Remember

- Research isn't linear, you will keep circling back to stages and may work on several stages at the one time. Some are more important than others, at various times during the process.
- Your proposed time line will last until you meet the first snag....but it helps frame your work, even if it has to be altered.
- Time spent on the literature review is never time wasted, as what you find here determines the way forward, even if it means a whole new RQ! (What you found was much more interesting than your initial RQ!!)
- With participants, expect hiccups and delays eg. a key participant gets sick, the time you allowed is too short for them, as they are busy and away for work
- Writing can be slow, as you are having to synthesise and make decisions about just what the critical information is – you can only use a fraction of what you discover in your presentation. You only have 1500-2000 words equivalent.