By Sirwa Anwar Qadir/ Ph. D. Lecturer

Week 7: RESEARCH METHODS

RESULTS CHAPTER

The results section of a report details the results or findings of the research. It answers the following questions:

- What happened?
- What was found?

There is no **interpretation** of the results, it only states the facts.

Presenting the data

Use **visual data**, e.g. **tables** and **graphs** to summarise the results and make them **easy to understand**. However, if visual data is used, they must be **referred** to in text.

Sample Results

There was an 85% response rate to the distribution of questionnaires to staff. The results clearly show that student mobile phones are considered by teaching staff to be disruptive (see Table 1). As a result, most staff would prefer that mobile phones were turned off in tutorials.

Tip: Tables *must* be referred to in the text. Label figures below and tables above.

Table 1

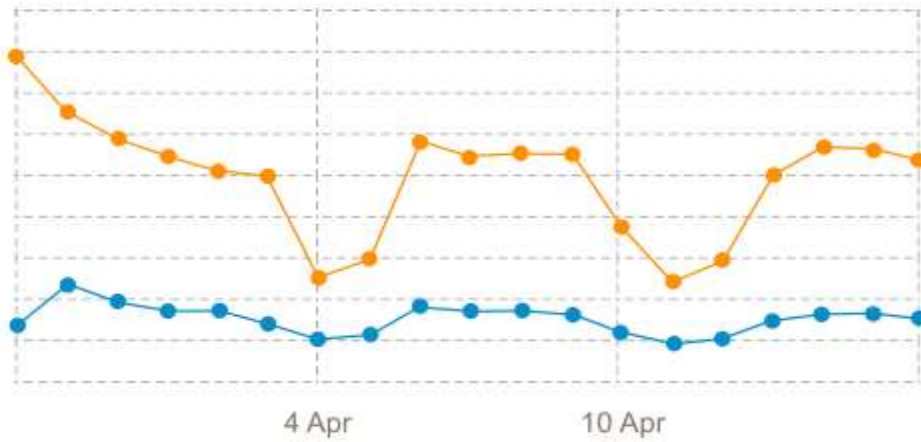| MOBILE PHONE USE IN TUTORIALS	STRONGLY AGREE (%)	AGREE (%)	DISAGREE (%)	STRONGLY DISAGREE (%)
1. Not a problem	5	7	65	23
2. Sometimes a problem	40	45	10	5
3. Often a problem	80	10	7	3
4. Phones should be allowed	6	16	56	22
5. Phones should be turned off	85	10	3	2
6. Phones should be allowed in some circumstances	10	52	24	14

Line graphs and histograms are useful for depicting trends

Figure 1: Daily sales results over April
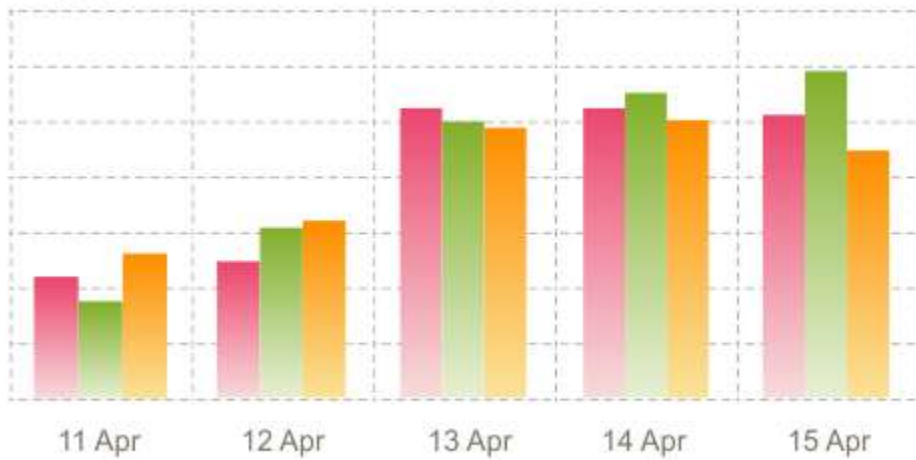
Bar graphs are effective when making comparisons

| 11 Apr | 12 Apr | 13 Apr | 14 Apr | 15 Apr |

Figure 2.6: Comparison of cohorts

Tables are good for summarising and presenting numerical data

Smoking in outdoor cafes	Strongly agree %	Agree %	Disgree %	Strongly disagree %
1. Not a problem	4	8	65	23
2. Sometimes a problem	40	45	10	5
3. Often a problem	10	80	7	3
4. Smoking should be allowed	4	10	62	24
5. Smoking should be banned	19	76	3	2
6. Smoking should be allowed in some circumstances	8	22	54	16

DISCUSSION CHAPTER

The discussion section of a report **interprets** the **results** of the research. It is here that the findings are woven together and the **major** issues/themes are **identified** and **discussed**.

The discussion section aims to:

- **identify** the **main** research **findings**/themes
- **interpret** the **results** together to show what they mean
- **Link** the results to **other research**.

Identifying the **major themes** in the results will help structure the discussion, especially in long reports. These can often be used as headings.

Sample discussion paragraph

Another significant finding of this study was that 80% of respondents found mobile phones are distracting in learning environments. This result differs from other similar studies. According to Lau (2011), staffs were increasingly using mobile technologies in tutorials and saw them as a valuable addition to the classroom. Further to this, mobile technology has the potential to become a critical tool for teaching (Bond 2010). This difference suggests that the technology can be used effectively if it is integral to the learning process. However, if it is used as a distracting (confuse) social tool in a tutorial, control of its use is justified.

Discussion of results

Link to other research

Student analysis/comment

Integrating references

There are two useful strategies for including references in your writing:

- Reporting words/phrases
- Linking words/phrases.

Choosing the most appropriate reporting words is important as it represents the original writer by showing the degree of certainty of their opinion or findings. When using words from the following list, be aware that their meanings all differ.

Reporting words/phrases

Suggest(s) (that)	Maintain(s) (that)
Argue(s) (that)	Found (that)
According (to)	Promote(s)
Outline(s)	Establish(ed) by
Focus(es) on	Asserts (that)
Define(s)	Show(s)
Conclude(s) (that)	Claim(s) (that)
State(s)	Report(s)
Mention(s)	Address(es)

Linking words

Linking words enable the writer to show the connections between ideas. We use linking words to emphasise the writer's analysis of their research.

Examples

Firstly,
Furthermore,
In addition,
However,
In contrast,
Consequently,