

# Finding Your Way with OC Research Level 2.1

## The Purpose for OC Research

### OVERVIEW OF FINDING YOUR WAY WITH OC RESEARCH MODULE 2.1

Module 2.1 will focus on the purpose for OC research and provides a philosophy of mission research.

This first module is divided into four sections:

- 1) The Purpose of OC Research
- 2) Four Categories of Mission Research
- 3) The Internal Functions of OC Research
- 4) The External Function of OC Research

#### Module Objectives

By completing this module you should be able to do the following:

- 1) Explain the role of OC Research within OC's broader philosophy of ministry and strategy.
- 2) Describe the tasks associated with the four categories of mission related research.
- 3) Explain how the internal and external functions of OC Research enhance effective ministry.
- 4) Begin the development of a research project relevant to your area of ministry.

#### Field Application

As stated earlier, you will have opportunity to apply what you are learning to your own area of ministry, developing appropriate research projects. This is where the rubber hits the road! You may find it helpful to preview the "Your Field Research Project" section before starting this module to start pondering how the principles in this module might apply in your ministry context. Your learning experience will be most beneficial if you apply what you are learning to your ministry.

#### Learning Activities

This document contains all the learning activities for this module. It will be best to print out this document. You can use this document to work through the module off line or to follow along with the online course found on the OC Learning Center. Other useful resources are mentioned along the way and are included in the bibliography at the end of this module. At the end of each section there is a Review Quiz to check your understanding of the material. Check your answers before moving to the next section. At the end of the module there is a 20 question quiz. This is to be taken on line. To successfully complete the module, you should score 80% or better on the module quiz.

You may work through this material at your own pace. If you wish, members of OC's Global Research Team are available to interact with you about this material. Send your message to [Research@oci.org](mailto:Research@oci.org).

Ready? Let's begin!

## THE PURPOSE FOR OC RESEARCH

Paul Yaggy has probably done more than anyone else to shape OC's corporate understanding and practice of research. This module will walk you through Yaggy's Position Paper on OC Research and point out how concepts outlined by Yaggy shape the present understanding and practice of research. This writer likens Yaggy's Position Paper to the letters of the Apostle Paul. Both are golden, but are not always easy to understand. This being the case, this writer has edited, and in some places re-written, portions of Yaggy's paper to enhance readability.

With this introduction, let's delve into Yaggy's Position Paper on OC Research. Yaggy starts by saying:

It is essential that both practicing field researchers and their teams fully comprehend not only the purpose statement for OC research, but also the manner in which it is interwoven and foundational for team ministry on the fields.

Since Yaggy says that it is important to comprehend the purpose of OC Research, let's review the OC strategy statements beginning with the 1990s up to the present day.

- **OC's strategy in the 1990s: RMTM**
  - The acrostic RMTM summarizes OC's strategy in the 1990s.
  - The acrostic stands for Research, Motivate, Train, and Mobilize.
  - These were considered sequential components of OC's ministry strategy.
  - Under Yaggy's influence, research was championed as foundational to all effective ministry.
- **OC Strategy Statement (2002-2015)**
  - Using research, motivation, and training, we mobilize church leaders to reach their nations and beyond
  - Can you identify how the RMTM terms were integrated into this strategy statement?
- **OC Strategy Statement 2015**
  - *We ask how God is at work then assist the Body of Christ to bring transformation to lives, communities and nations.*
  - *How is research evident in this strategy statement?*
  - *What new emphasis does this strategy statement add to the research process? How is this important?*
  - *In the exposition of the new OC Vision, Mission and Strategy statements, the role of research within OC's philosophy of ministry is further described:*  
  
*"With leaders and partners we ask such questions as: What would a disciplined nation look like? What would it take to get there? How can we help you? Where, through whom, and how is God multiplying fruit? Asking often involves research on the status of the harvest force and harvest field, and brings to light dynamics involved in the multiplication of transformational leaders, churches, and ministries (James 1:5)."*
  - What are some ways that "research" is foundational to effective ministry?
- Larry Kraft points out other ways that research helps us see how God is at work (Worthing 2014)
  - *God the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit are at work in the world today causing the church to grow.*

- *Church related research allows us to discern how God is at work.*
- *Understanding how God is at work may yield a “prophetic message” to the churches.*
- *Understanding how God is at work allows us to “partner” with Him in what he is doing.*
- *Research gives us opportunities to bless and affirm others.*
- Purpose Statement for OC Research (2015):
  - The Global Research Team has developed a specific purpose statement for OC Research: *“We assist field workers, churches and ministry partners to gather and analyze information to develop effective ministry strategies.”*
  - *In the vision of the Global Research Team, what is the purpose of mission research?*
- We could say that “Everyone does research.” Just about every time we look outside to evaluate the weather, enter a store to make a purchase, or perform an internet search, we are doing research. By intuition, we all gather and analyze information to make decisions. Thus what everyone does *intuitively*, OC researchers, mission information workers and field leaders strive to do *intentionally*. So we seek out best practices to gather and analyze information in order to develop effective ministry strategies. Remember: “What everyone does *intuitively*, OC research strives to do *intentionally*.”
- Consider Viggo Sogaard’s comment in “Research in Church and Mission” (1996:9).
 

“We all need a research perspective, a research attitude, so that we at all times are seeking good and important information. As a ministering team, we also need a common concern for research so that information gathering can be a joint effort. If it is just left to the researcher, the result may be research reports sitting on shelves without being used.”

Explain why the whole ministry team should value the use of good information.
- In CORE training for new OC workers, we point out OC’s vision of research is implemented on the field team:
  1. The Team Leader needs to ensure that information gathering (research) is happening and that good information is used lead the team in making strategy decisions and evaluation.
  2. As lifelong learners, all team members gather information (research) about the context and the church and share what is learned with the team. The insights gained are used to develop fruitful ministries.
  3. Ideally each team will have a specific person who does more in-depth research to provide the team and the wider church with needed information.
- We could say that OC research is “purpose driven”. Based on these statements, in your own words, tell how OC Research is “purpose driven”.

## Review the Purpose for OC Research

Take this quiz to check your understanding of the key points of this section.

1. The R in RMTM stands for :
  - A. Relationship
  - B. Research
  - C. Reform
  - D. Reason
  - E. Revive
2. The Global Research Team views research as important for:
  - A. Understanding the times
  - B. Promoting good stewardship
  - C. Providing a justification for mission activity
  - D. Develop effective ministry strategies
  - E. Discerning how God is at work
3. The T in the acrostic RMTM stands for:
  - A. Teach
  - B. Train
  - C. Technology
  - D. Tell-a-Person
  - E. Total Depravity
4. The first M in in the acrostic RMTM stands for:
  - A. Meditate
  - B. Mission
  - C. Mobilize
  - D. Money
  - E. Motivate
5. The last M in the acrostic RMTM stands for:
  - A. Meditate
  - B. Mission
  - C. Mobilize
  - D. Money
  - E. Motivate
6. Which of the following phrases points to research in the new 2015 OC strategy statement:
  - A. We ask how God is at work.
  - B. We first seek to understand the culture and context of our place of ministry
  - C. We ask the Lord of the Harvest to send forth laborers into his harvest field
  - D. We first seek to understand institutional church.
  - E. We ask the Lord to give Jesus the nations as his inheritance.

Go to the Answer Key for Module 2.1 and check your answers. If you missed any questions, go back and review the relevant material.

## FOUR CATEGORIES OF MISSION RESEARCH

In his *Position Paper on OC Research*, Paul Yaggy described four categories of mission related research. In this section we will look into these four categories and describe the tasks related to each.

Recently (circa 1988, ed.) the World Evangelical Fellowship asked for the registration of research centers engaged in evangelical endeavor in an effort to bring about coordination and resource conservation in accomplishing various ministry tasks. Loh Hoe Peng, in attempting to develop a catalogue of such centers, discovered that it was necessary to further define the research activity according to its scope and purpose within each activity reported.

In my discussions with him, I suggested that perhaps four categories apply. The first is those who are accumulating **factual data** only. This includes demographic information regarding both the context and the institutional church. Such information is published or maintained for access and use by others as they desire. The extensive tome produced by David Barrett (*The World Christian Encyclopedia*, first published in 1982<sup>1</sup>, ed.) falls in this category. Depending on the continuity of the endeavor, this information will provide either a single snapshot in time as Barrett did, or through the accumulation of subsequent data makes available information for further analysis.

The second category is made up of those who do such analysis to **show trends** and to **define potential places of ministry** which are in need of pioneering effort.

The third category consists of those who not only do trend analysis, but seek to discover to a limited degree some of the **factors** which cause these trends. These organizations publish papers along with their statistical data and analysis to assist whoever is interested in such information.

A fourth category in which OC finds itself is organizations which do all of the above but **carry the analysis of the factors to greater depth with the primary purpose of understanding both the institutional church and its context** with regard to past and present ministry effectiveness as well as its potential for meeting identified needs in the future. The primary output of such research, as far as OC is concerned, is a basis for decision making for its own ministries in serving the church and for carrying out the other three categories of OC's basic strategy of motivation, training, and mobilization.

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<sup>1</sup> A second edition of the World Christian Encyclopedia (WCE) was published in 2001 by David Barrett, George Thomas Kurian, and Todd M. Johnson. The World Christian Database, which is the basis for the WCE is regularly updated and is available online. See <http://worldchristiandatabase.org/wcd/about/more.asp>.

## Reflect on what you read

1. In your own words, describe Yaggy's first category of research.
2. Describe Yaggy's second category of research.
3. Describe Yaggy's the third category of research.
4. Describe Yaggy's the fourth category of research.

## The Mission Information Pyramid

Larry Kraft later depicted Yaggy's four categories of mission research as a pyramid and further explained what the mission information worker seeks to discover at each level. We will call this the Mission Information Pyramid. The mission information pyramid as conceived by Kraft provides a good summary of the tasks that a mission information worker strives to accomplish. Kraft's innovation is based on a broader information science known as the "DIKW Pyramid" or the "Knowledge Hierarchy". (See [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/DIKW\\_Pyramid](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/DIKW_Pyramid) for a general overview and further references.) The acronym **DIKW** is short for Data, Information, Knowledge and Wisdom. These four words describe what the mission information worker seeks at each level. Yaggy's four categories of research nicely fit into this model. The following diagram shows Yaggy's four levels of research with Kraft's commentary.



Some may better remember the acrostic for the four categories of research in the opposite order: WKID -“Wicked”: Wisdom, Knowledge, Information and Data. Or perhaps the phrase “White Knights Intimidate Dragons” will help you remember the four key words.



White Knights Intimidate Dragons: Wisdom, Knowledge, Information, Data

**Stop! Practice naming the four levels of research.**

### **Digging Deeper: The Aims of Mission Research**

Let's take a more in depth look at what the mission information workers seeks at each of the four levels.

At level one Kraft points out that the mission information workers must gather data – or if fortunate, work with relevant data that others have gathered. The process is to develop a clear research question, and determine what data is necessary to answer the question. A research plan should be developed that outlines the process needed to answer the research question. This will describe how the data will be gathered, who will gather the data, the intended results, the cost, time frame, etc. A later modules will go into greater detail about research process.

At level two, the mission worker must organize and analyze data to get usable information. This will also involve basic analysis. Yaggy describes the analysis task at this level as showing trends and places for potential ministry. Later modules will provide further training on determining trends and identifying places of potential ministry.

While levels one and two seek to answer the question, “**What?**”, level three presents a new question, “**Why?**”, or we may say levels one and two focus on discovering the **facts**; level three focuses on discovering the **factors**. Kraft expanded this pointing out that the mission information worker at level three seeks to gain knowledge, insight and understanding of the past and present. At the third level, we seek to understand why things are the way they are. This different question will require a different type of information to produce an answer (the technical term for this is qualitative information) and will likely require different research methods. Later modules will provide further training about identifying factors and qualitative research.

At the fourth level, Kraft adds that the focus here is to obtain wisdom about what to do in the future, specifically to develop and implement mission strategy. Recall that Yaggy points out that OC works at the fourth level. For some time this writer has wrestled to come up with a succinct way to describe this fourth level. In technical terms, what OC information workers do is called “applied research.” “Applied research”, though correct, does not seem to have a specific application for mission work nor does it excite much passion. My current thought is that “decision making for disciple making” best summarizes the focus of the fourth level. Thus the mission information worker’s goal would be to provide information to assist decision making for disciple making. This is also on the diagram.

What is a succinct way to describe the focus of the fourth level of the Mission Information Pyramid? What do you think?

Yaggy also pointed out that one of the internal functions of OC Research is to evaluate the effectiveness of team ministry and to identify factors that are helping or hindering effectiveness, so that corrective action can be taken. A later module will focus on practical ways and tools to evaluate team ministry.

To summarize, we might also say the task of levels one and two is to **determine the facts**. Level three, according to Yaggy is to **determine factors** shaping the trends. The focus of level four could be called **decision making for disciple making**.

Thus Yaggy’s four categories of mission research outline the process that a mission information workers uses to provide information that, in the end, will inform decision making for disciple making. While OC works at the fourth level, a mission information worker must also demonstrate competence at levels one, two and three to get to level four. Toward this end, additional modules will equip mission information workers to be competent at all four levels.

It is likely that you already intuitively work at all four levels of the mission pyramid. What we aim to do is help you become more intentional and competent in your use of mission information. Remember: “What everyone does *intuitively*, OC research strives to do *intentionally*.”



## Review the Four Categories of Mission Research

Take this quiz to check your understanding of the key points of this section.

1. According to Paul Yaggy, in what category of mission information work does OC find itself?
  - A. The First: Gathers Data
  - B. The Second: Analysis to show trends and places for potential ministry
  - C. The Third: Identify factors that shape trends
  - D. The Fourth: In depth research about the Church and its context
  - E. All of the above
2. What acrostic does Kraft use to describe what the mission worker seeks at each level?
  - A. CORE
  - B. DIKW
  - C. DISK
  - D. FACT
  - E. WORD
3. According to Yaggy, the task at level three is to:
  - A. Determine trends
  - B. Gather data
  - C. Make effective decisions
  - D. Determine the factors
  - E. Organize data
4. The “D” in Kraft’s acrostic stands for?
  - A. Data
  - B. Definition
  - C. Describe
  - D. Disciple
  - E. Ducks in a row
5. The “I” in Kraft’s acrostic stands for:
  - A. Influence
  - B. Information
  - C. Insight
  - D. Integrate
  - E. Intercession
6. The “W” in Kraft’s acrostic stands for:
  - A. Witness
  - B. What?
  - C. Wisdom
  - D. Why?
  - E. Write

7. From a technical perspective, the type of research that OC performs is classified as:
  - A. Academic Research
  - B. Anecdotal Research
  - C. Applied Research
  - D. Field Research
  - E. Mission Research
8. Yaggy would agree that the task of the mission information workers at levels one and two is to:
  - A. Determine the facts.
  - B. Determine what to do in the future.
  - C. Evaluate team ministry effectiveness.
  - D. Find out what ministry methods are effective or ineffective.
  - E. Find out why the church is growing or not growing.
9. Which of these would NOT be a level three task?
  - A. Discover why the church is growing or not growing.
  - B. Discover what ministry methods are effective or ineffective.
  - C. Describe growth trends
  - D. Discern why the target population is resistant to the Gospel.
  - E. Identify barriers to mobilizing workers.
10. Which of these does not describe the fourth level of research?
  - A. A quest for wisdom
  - B. Applied Research
  - C. Decision making for disciple making
  - D. Demographic information about the church and the context
  - E. In depth understanding of the church and the context

Go to the Answer Key for Module 2.1 and check your answers. If you missed any questions, go back and review the relevant material.

## TWO DIMENSIONS OF OC RESEARCH

In the second paragraph of his Position Paper on OC Research, Yaggy points out that there are two dimensions of OC Research: Internal and external.

It should be recognized that OC research has both internal and external dimensions. Further, there are subdivisions within these two categories. It will be seen that these are the elements peculiar to OC which differentiate its research practices from other missions and organizations.

These two dimensions, internal and external, along with their sub categories, will be the subject for the next two sections. Let's start with Yaggy's exposition of the internal functions of OC Research.

### The Internal Functions of OC Research

OC Research carries out two internal functions which benefit the ministry team. The first function is to support effective decision making. The second function is to evaluate ministry effectiveness.

The first internal function of OC research forms a basis for decision making by the field director and his team, in order to guide both team and individual ministries in such a manner as to produce maximum benefit to the church and the evangelization of the nation. To fulfill this purpose, research must seek to understand of both the institutional **church** in all of its manifestations and the **context** in which that church exists. (We may add that understanding the context implies a thorough and deep understanding of the **culture** and the **country** or **community**.) Our research must also reveal how the national church sees its purpose and its felt needs. It must reveal what the church considers to be its objectives for ministry and how it evaluates its own effectiveness. In short, research must seek to develop relationships with church leaders that ultimately will result in a partnership with the church to meet identified needs and fulfill the Great Commission.

Outcomes of this research effort are to (1) evaluate the results of the church's ministry, (2) determine the adequacy of its methods, (3) identify the church's ministry potential, both cultural and cross-cultural, in terms of both need and opportunity. These evaluative functions should be carried out in partnership with the church. This kind of information is essential to make decisions that guide how OC pursues its ministry to the church.

The second internal purpose of OC research is to evaluate the achievement of OC ministry goals and objectives, which were established according to the knowledge and understanding gained from earlier research. The primary aim of such effort is to evaluate progress, not on a success/fail basis, but rather to (a) evaluate the effectiveness of the effort and to (b) identify facts and factors which either are (1) enhancing or (2) impeding achievement of the goals.

## GATHERING GOLDEN NUGGETS

This is a golden passage. Yaggy packs a lot of information into these four paragraphs! Use the following questions and Worksheet 2.1 to “gather the golden nuggets” from these paragraphs. Later you will complete this worksheet for the external function of research.

- What group benefits first from OC Research? Note this under the “Internal...Beneficiary” on Worksheet 2.1.
- According to Yaggy, what are the two internal functions of OC Research? Note these under “Internal...Functions”.
- What two “Cs” does Yaggy seek to understand? Note these under “Seeks to Understand”.
- According to Yaggy, what can research reveal about the Church? Note this under “Research Reveals” 1-4.
- In the second paragraph, how does Yaggy describe “key outcomes of the research effort”? Note this under “Outcomes” 1-3.
- In the third paragraph, what does Yaggy have to say about how the team evaluates its ministry? (Note this under “Aims for Team Evaluation” 1-3.
- In relationship to church leaders and the Church, what “best practices” does Yaggy recommend in the last two paragraphs?
- Is there anything else from this passage that impresses you? Note any other observations you made in the last section.

If you wish to check your work, suggested responses to these questions can be found in Appendix 1: Suggested Responses for Worksheet 2.1

WORKSHEET 2.1 THE INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL FUNCTIONS OF OC RESEARCH

Dimension	Internal	External
Beneficiary		
Function or Purpose	1.	1.
	2.	2.
Research seeks to understand...	1.	
	2.	
Research reveals...	1.	
	2.	
	3.	
	4.	
Key Outcomes	1.	
	2.	
	3.	
Aims for Team Evaluation	a.	
	b.	
	c.	
Best Practices		
Additional observations or relevant applications		

## DIGGING DEEPER: THE CHURCH IS BIGGER THAN YOU THINK

Yaggy says “we must seek to understand... the institutional **church** in all of its manifestations.” Consider for a moment what “all of its manifestations” might include.

In *The Church is Bigger than You Think (1998)*, Patrick Johnstone proposes that when we think of the Church, we should include these three structures: theological training institutions, mission sending organizations as well as local churches (pp. 156ff). All of these structures make up the Harvest Force.

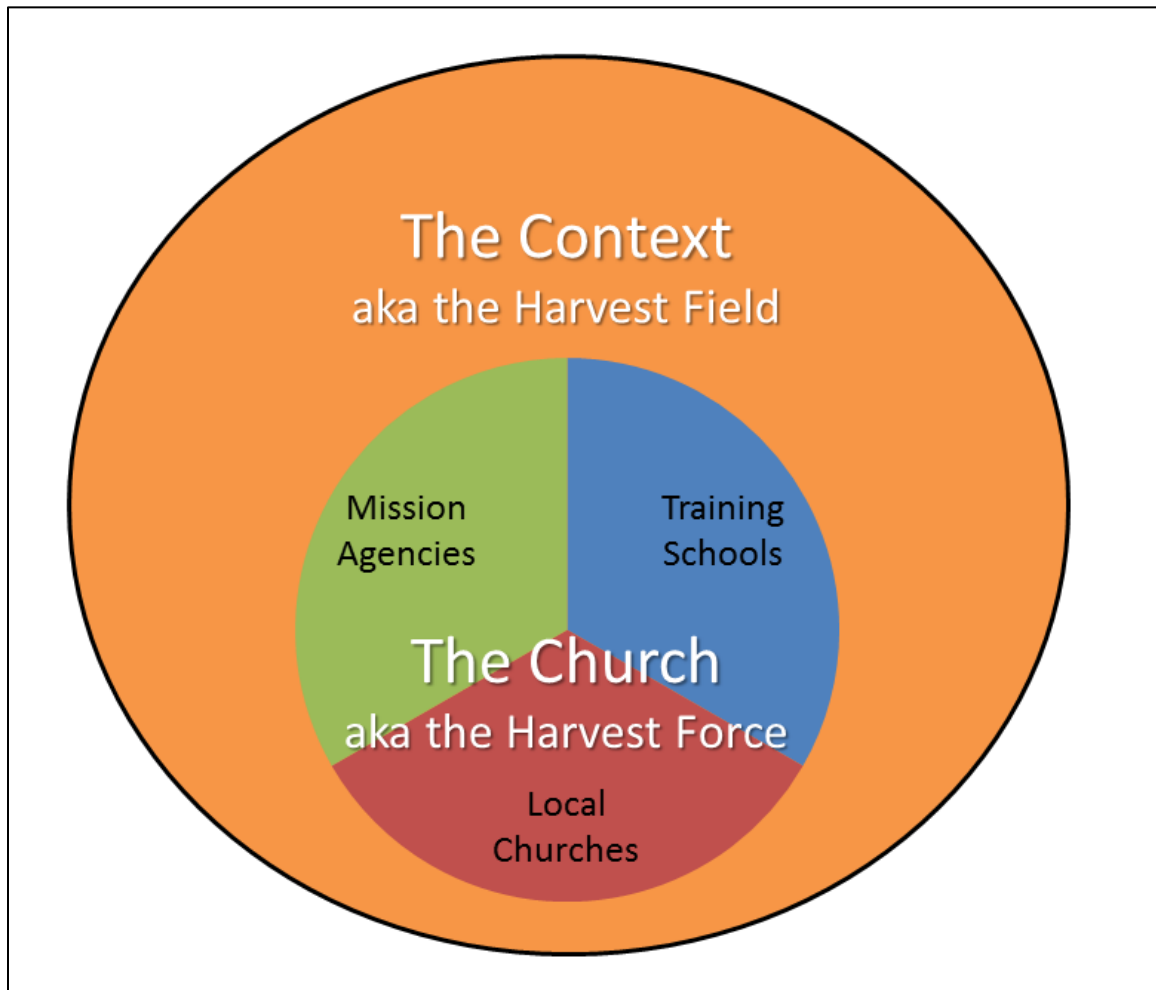
In addition to these three structures are there any other “manifestations” of the Church that we should also include?

### **STOP! Consider your area of ministry.**

- What are the Christian denominations?
- What are the Christian organizations?
- What are the mission sending organizations?
- What are the theological training schools?
- Are there any other “manifestations” of the harvest force in your context that do not fall into these three categories?
- How may it be useful to have a broader vision of the harvest structures of the Church?

Yaggy goes on to say “we must seek to understand... the **context** in which that church exists.” The “context” could also be thought of as the Harvest Field. Let’s consider more deeply the context in which the Church exists in. If you were to understand the context in your area of ministry what would you want to discover? Besides “context” several “C” words come to mind: the culture, the country, the community, maybe even the characteristics of the target people group. The research task has been simply described as “draw a circle around the area you seek to reach and find out everything about what is in the circle.” What other things in the circle would be important to understand? All this would be the context.

The following diagram suggests the relationship of the Church and its Context or the Harvest Force and the Harvest Field.



**Stop! Consider your area of ministry.**

- How would you describe your area of your ministry? Is it a community, a country, a continent?
- What is important to understand about your context?
- What are important characteristics of the target people group(s) you seek to disciple?
- What would you want to better understand about your ministry context?
- What practical value would a deeper understanding of these add to your ministry?

**Stop! Consider too the evaluation of your team's ministry**

- What measures could your team use to evaluate its ministry effectiveness?
- What factors are contributing to or inhibiting the accomplishment of your team's goals and objectives?
- How would a clearer understanding of the facts and factors related to your team's ministry help your team become more effective in the future?

## ADDITIONAL BENEFITS OF RESEARCH FOR THE MINISTRY TEAM

Later in Yaggy's Position Paper on OC Research, he further draws out four additional benefits of research for the ministry team. He writes:

1. Research provides ways to understand the ministry context. Research provides a framework for interpreting the context and culture in which the OC team's efforts must take place. Without this framework any ministry effort may be irrelevant to the people for whom it is intended.
2. Research promotes the formation of appropriate ministry goals and objectives. Field research is conducted systematically and intentionally to determine critical needs for ministry. This provides a knowledge base for setting appropriate team ministry goals and objectives.
3. Research stimulates more effective team ministry. Knowledge obtained from field research can be used to guide the process of coordinating the efforts of individual team members into a unified field ministry in order to carry out the corporate purpose of the mission. It also provides a tool to evaluate ministry effectiveness.
4. Research helps teams determine which needs are most critical to church multiplication, both culturally and cross-culturally. It can then allocate current resources to best help meet these needs.

Can you identify other benefits of research for the ministry team? If so, what might they be?



## REVIEW THE INTERNAL FUNCTIONS OF OC RESEARCH

Take this quiz to check your understanding of the key points of this section.

1. In Yaggy's opinion what group is the first to benefit from OC research?
  - A. The Ministry Team
  - B. Ministry Partners
  - C. The National Church
  - D. The Community
  - E. The Whole Nation
2. According to Yaggy, what are the two internal functions of research?
  - A. Bear much fruit and glorify God
  - B. Build trust
  - C. Effective decision making
  - D. Evaluate ministry effectiveness
  - E. Inform Intercession

Tech: It would be nice to use radio buttons and to click the two correct ones.

3. What two Cs does Yaggy consider important to understand?
  - A. The Church
  - B. The Community
  - C. The Context
  - D. The Country
  - E. The Culture
4. Which of the following questions would Yaggy say is not all that useful for evaluating a team's ministry?
  - A. Is our team making progress toward achieving our goals and objectives?
  - B. Is our team's ministry effective?
  - C. With regard to our team goals, did our team succeed or fail?
  - D. What facts and factors enhance the achievement of our team's goals?
  - E. What facts and factors inhibit the achievement of our team's goals?

Go to the Answer Key for Module 2.1 and check your answers. If you missed any questions, go back and review the relevant material.

## The External Function of OC Research

About the External Function of OC Research, Yaggy writes:

The external function of the research effort is to assist the church. The primary purpose is to demonstrate the value of research to the church and to encourage ownership and the development of research capability within its own institution. In short, the desire is not to do research *for* the church but to do research *with* the church. So the development of national researchers is a primary goal. Obviously, sharing research information is a function of the external purpose and must be given its rightful place; but this should never supersede the primary desire of producing an indigenous research effort.

### REFLECT ON WHAT YOU READ

- Who does Yaggy say is the external beneficiary of OC Research? Note this on the Worksheet 2.1 under “External...Beneficiary”.
- How does Yaggy describe the two-fold “primary purpose” of the external function? Note this on the worksheet under “External...Purpose”.
- Draw conclusions about “key outcomes” from this passage. Note these on the worksheet under “External...Outcomes”.
- What “best practices” for field research does Yaggy recommend? Note these on Worksheet 2.1.
- Is there anything else from this passage that impresses you? Note any other observations or applications in the last section.
- In your ministry context to what “degree” does the Church “own” the research process?

A The Church is unaware of the benefits of research

B. The Church is opposed to research

C. The Church is open to research done by others

D. There is an Emerging national research function

E. A fully functional indigenous research effort exists.

- What is the “research capacity” of the Church in your area of ministry? In other words, if you wanted accurate information about the Church in your area, who would you contact? What would you be able to find out? How accurate would the information be?
- How would ministry be more effective if research were owned and directed by the national church in your area?
- Are you doing research for the church or with the church?
- Suppose your aim is to develop an indigenous research effort, how would you go about this in your context?
- What is being done by your team to help the national church develop its research capacity?
- How might your team help to further develop the level of research “ownership” and “capacity” of the national Church?

If you wish to check your work, suggested responses can be found in Appendix 1.

## DIGGING DEEPER: PERMANENT NATIONAL RESEARCH FUNCTIONS

It is possible that what you have read here has whetted your interest to know more about National Research Functions. Here are two resources that delve deeper into this subject.

- One of the best works on the subject is Bob Waymire’s “National Research Mobilization Handbook” (1994). [\(Provide a link\)](#)
- Recently (2015) Larry Kraft’s presented a paper at the Lausanne Researcher’s conference, “Reliability and Responsibility: The Value of Permanent National Research Functions.” This paper, based on Kraft’s field research, investigates the development of national research functions. [\(Provide a link\)](#)

## SUMMARIZING THE EXTERNAL FUNCTION OF RESEARCH

Later in his Position Paper on OC Research, Yaggy points out six ways that the external functions of research can “Assist the Church”.

1. To see potential. Research examines the context and the current efforts of the church to see what potential exists for the church to disciple its nation. This potential provides vision and encouragement to the church. It enables the church to see that the task of discipling their nation is a reality that can be accomplished and not merely a philosophical wish.
2. To see needs. When the potential is determined, it should become apparent that certain needs will have to be met in order for that potential to be achieved. Research efforts shared with the church will help to determine its needs for ministry and the areas where OC can be of assistance.
3. To meet selected needs. OC has neither the resources nor the inclination to meet all the ministry needs of the church. To do so would not only rob the church of the opportunity, blessing and obligation to see the Lord work through its own members, but would deny it the self-sufficiency it must have to achieve its mandates. The role of OC is catalytic in motivating, training and mobilizing the church through ministries that are deemed to be the most necessary.
4. To identify change agents. Research discovers the national change agents with whom OC can work to promote effective change in areas selected by the OC team for ministry. Research also seeks to discover ways to motivate and help change agents to lead a change process that will lead to growth of the church and discipling the nation.
5. To identify models. By examining the church institutions and their effect on the culture, one can find the most effective models where change is happening, or find the models that are not producing change, both of which can serve to motivate the church either to progressive or corrective action as appropriate.

6. To discover the right timing. Mobilization is primarily a matter of timing if proper motivation and training are taking place. Research seeks to discover the timing best suited to full and effective mobilization.

**Stop! Reflect on what you've read.**

- Consider how each of these six items might benefit the Church in your area of ministry.
  1. What “potential” does the church have in your area of ministry
  2. What “needs” should be addressed to unleash the Church’s potential
  3. What “selected needs” can OC best assist with in your area of ministry?
  4. Who are the “change agents” in your area of ministry?
  5. What “models” of effective ministry are there in your area?
  6. What insight regarding the “right timing” for motivation, training and mobilization can research provide for your area?
- Can you think of other ways that research can “assist the Church”?
- Do any relevant “research tasks” come to mind for your area of ministry?

## REVIEW THE EXTERNAL FUNCTION OF OC RESEARCH

Take this quiz to check your understanding of the key points of this section.

1. Yaggy says that the goal of the external function is to:
  - A. Assist the church
  - B. Help the team make better decisions
  - C. Evaluate team ministry
  - D. Make disciples of all nations
  - E. Understand how God is at work
2. What is NOT an intention of the external function of research?
  - A. Share information
  - B. Encourage the national ownership of research
  - C. Develop an indigenous research capacity
  - D. Demonstrate the value of research
  - E. Develop a global database of church and mission data.
3. Which of these is NOT included in Yaggy's summary of the external function of research?
  - A. Discover right timing
  - B. Identify change agents
  - C. Make good ministry decisions
  - D. Meet selected needs
  - E. See potential
4. Which of these is NOT mentioned by Yaggy as a benefit of evaluating ministry models?
  - A. Motivate the church
  - B. Experiment with new ministry models
  - C. Identify effective ministry models
  - D. Identify less effective ministry models
  - E. Identify the church's effect on culture
5. With regard to seeing needs, which of these statements is false?
  - A. Certain needs will have to be met in order for the Church's potential to be achieved.
  - B. Research can help OC determine areas where it can best assist the church
  - C. Seeing needs comes easier after determining the Church's potential.
  - D. OC does not need to work in partnership with the Church to identify ministry needs.
  - E. Research can help the church determine its needs for ministry

Go to the Answer Key for Module 2.1 and check your answers. If you missed any questions, go back and review the relevant material.

## YOUR FIELD RESEARCH PROJECT

This Starter's Guide to Field Research was developed by Jeanie Currier in the early phases of developing the Finding Your Way with OC Research course. Jeanie poses some great questions to start you thinking about how research applied to your area of ministry.

### **Getting Started with Field Research: Ask yourself...**

#### Working with your field leader and your team:

1. How does my field leader view my role on the team? What are his and my team's research priorities?
2. What burning questions do my field leader and team have about how best to minister in our particular context?
3. Where does my field leader/team want me to start in helping the team and/or the church gain answers to these questions?
4. Given the above, what would be a good entry level research project for me to do?
5. What research methods would be most suitable for gaining answers to the above questions?
6. Is there someone (in OC or without) who could serve as mentor for me?

#### Basic research skills:

1. What skills do I need to get started?
2. What resources are most readily available to help me develop these skills?
3. What research strengths and skills do I already have? Which are weak or missing?
4. Do others on my team have skills that would complement my mine?

#### Laying the foundation for a research ministry:

1. As a researcher, do I have an adequate understanding of the Harvest Field and Harvest Force in my particular context?
2. What resources are already available that would help me understand the Harvest Field and the Harvest Force here?
3. What kind of strategic information does the church in our context need most in order to do and be all that it can be?

As you thought through these questions, have you identified a research project that is relevant to your area of ministry? What is it? What may be some of the first steps need to take to develop your field research project? The next module, The Research Process, lays out the ten steps that apply to just about all research projects. You should find this helpful in navigating the research process

## MODULE REVIEW

1. When we share about research at CORE, we use these slides. They provide a good summary of this module too.

### OC Research has a Dual Role

<b>Internal: Helps the OC Team</b>	<b>External: Serves the Church</b>
1. Provides a framework for understanding the church and its context.	1. Identifies needs.
2. Leads to an informed and focused strategy.	2. Raises the vision of church leaders.
3. Encourages wise use of resources.	3. Helps the church see its potential for discipling its nation and beyond.
4. Helps gain credibility with the national church.	4. Identifies key change agents.
5. Provides information to evaluate ministry goals.	5. Identifies effective (and ineffective) ministry models.

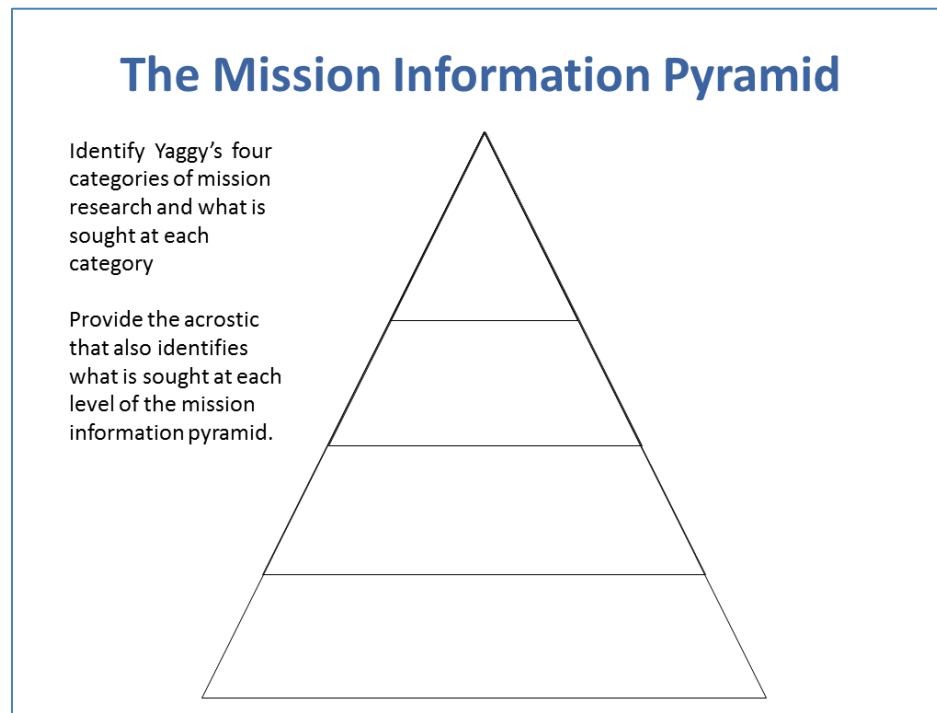
### OC Research has a Dual Focus

1. The Harvest Field
  - The Country, Culture or Context
2. The Harvest Force
  - The Church and other Institutional Information: Mission Agencies, Para Church Organizations and Ministry Training Schools

In these areas, we search for Facts and Factors that have a bearing on discipling a whole nation.

- Facts answer the Who? What? When? and Where? questions.
- Factors address the How? and Why? and questions.

2. Fill in the basic elements of the mission information pyramid



3. Review the notes taken on Worksheet 2.1.
4. Make a mind map of what you discovered about research as you worked through this module. You may wish to use a separate sheet of paper.

5. Review the four section quizzes that you took as you worked through this module.

Now you should be ready to take the final quiz for this module.



## MODULE QUIZ

Take this quiz to check your understanding of the key points of this FYW module.

1. The R in RMTM stands for :
  - A. Relationship
  - B. Research
  - C. Reform
  - D. Reason
  - E. Revive
2. The Global Research Team views research as important for:
  - A. Understanding the times
  - B. Promoting good stewardship
  - C. Providing a justification for mission activity
  - D. Developing effective ministry strategies
  - E. Discerning how God is at work
3. The T in the acrostic RMTM stands for:
  - A. Teach
  - B. Train
  - C. Technology
  - D. Tell-a-Person
  - E. Total Depravity
4. The first M in in the acrostic RMTM stands for:
  - A. Meditate
  - B. Mission
  - C. Mobilize
  - D. Money
  - E. Motivate
5. The last M in the acrostic RMTM stands for:
  - A. Meditate
  - B. Mission
  - C. Mobilize
  - D. Money
  - E. Motivate
6. Which of the following phrases points to research in the new 2015 OC strategy statement:
  - A. We ask how God is at work.
  - B. We first seek to understand the culture and context of our place of ministry
  - C. We ask the Lord of the Harvest to send forth laborers into his harvest field
  - D. We first seek to understand institutional church.
  - E. We ask the Lord to give Jesus the nations as his inheritance.

7. According to Paul Yaggy, in what category of mission information work does OC find itself?
  - A. The First
  - B. The Second
  - C. The Third
  - D. The Fourth
  - E. All of the above
8. What acrostic does Kraft use to describe what the mission worker seeks at each level?
  - A. CORE
  - B. DIKW
  - C. DISK
  - D. FACT
  - E. WORD
9. According to Yaggy, the task at level three is to:
  - A. Determine trends
  - B. Gather data
  - C. Make effective decisions
  - D. Determine the factors
  - E. Organize data
10. The "D" in Kraft's acrostic stands for?
  - A. Data
  - B. Definition
  - C. Describe
  - D. Disciple
  - E. Ducks in a row
11. The "I" in Kraft's acrostic stands for:
  - A. Influence
  - B. Information
  - C. Insight
  - D. Integrate
  - E. Intercession
12. The "W" in Kraft's acrostic stands for:
  - A. Witness
  - B. What?
  - C. Wisdom
  - D. Why?
  - E. Write

13. From a technical perspective, the type of research that OC performs is classified as:
- A. Academic Research
  - B. Anecdotal Research
  - C. Applied Research
  - D. Field Research
  - E. Mission Research
14. Yaggy would agree that the task of the mission information workers at levels one and two is to:
- A. Determine the facts.
  - B. Determine what to do in the future.
  - C. Evaluate team ministry effectiveness.
  - D. Find out what ministry methods are effective or ineffective.
  - E. Find out why the church is growing or not growing.
15. Which of these would NOT be a level three task?
- A. Discover why the church is growing or not growing.
  - B. Discover what ministry methods are effective or ineffective.
  - C. Discover how God is at work.
  - D. Discover why the target population is resistant to the Gospel.
  - E. Discover barriers to mobilizing workers.
16. Which of these does not describe the fourth level of research?
- A. A quest for wisdom
  - B. Applied Research
  - C. Decision making for disciple making
  - D. Demographic information about the church and the context
  - E. In depth understanding of the church and the context
17. In Yaggy's opinion what group is the first to benefit from OC research?
- A. The Ministry Team
  - B. Ministry Partners
  - C. The National Church
  - D. The Community
  - E. The Whole Nation
18. According to Yaggy, what are the two internal functions of research?
- A. Bear much fruit and glorify God
  - B. Build trust
  - C. Effective decision making
  - D. Evaluate ministry effectiveness
  - E. Inform Intercession

Tech: It would be nice to use radio buttons and to click the two correct ones.

19. What two Cs does Yaggy consider important to understand?
- A. The Church
  - B. The Community
  - C. The Context
  - D. The Country
  - E. The Culture
20. Which of the following questions would Yaggy say is not all that useful for evaluating a team's ministry?
- A. Is our team making progress toward achieving our goals and objectives?
  - B. Is our team's ministry effective?
  - C. With regard to our team goals, did our team succeed or fail?
  - D. What facts and factors enhance the achievement of our team's goals?
  - E. What facts and factors inhibit the achievement of our team's goals?
21. Yaggy says that the goal of the external function is to:
- A. Assist the church
  - B. Help the team make better decisions
  - C. Evaluate team ministry
  - D. Make disciples of all nations
  - E. Understand how God is at work
22. What is NOT an intention of the external function of research?
- A. Share information
  - B. Encourage the national ownership of research
  - C. Develop an indigenous research capacity
  - D. Demonstrate the value of research
  - E. Develop a global database of church and mission data.
23. Which of these is NOT included in Yaggy's summary of the external function of research
- A. Discover right timing
  - B. Identify change agents
  - C. Make good ministry decisions
  - D. Meet selected needs
  - E. See potential
24. Which of these is NOT mentioned by Yaggy as a benefit of evaluating ministry models
- A. Motivate the church
  - B. Experiment with new ministry models
  - C. Identify effective ministry models
  - D. Identify less effective ministry models
  - E. Identify the church's effect on culture

25. With regard to seeing needs, which of these statements is false?

- A. Certain needs will have to be met in order for the Church's potential to be achieved.
- B. Research can help OC determine areas where it can best assist the church
- C. Seeing needs comes easier after determining the Church's potential.
- D. OC does not need to work in partnership with the Church to identify ministry needs.
- E. Research can help the church determine its needs for ministry

Go to the Answer Key for Module 2.1 and check your answers.

## ANSWER KEYS FOR MODULE 2.1.

Review the Purpose of OC Research

1. B 2. D 3. B 4. E 5. C 6. A

Review the Four Categories of OC Research

1. D 2. B 3. E 4. A 5. B 6. C 7. C 8. A 9. C 10. D

Review the Internal Purpose of OC Research

1. A 2. A & D 3. A & C 4. B

Review the External Purpose of OC Research

1. A 2. E 3. C 4. B 5. D

Module 2.1 Quiz

1. B 2. D 3. B 4. E 5. C 6. A 7. D 8. B 9. E 10. A

11. B 12. C 13. C 14. A 15. C 16. D 17. A 18. A & D 19. A & C 20. B

21. A 22. E 23. C 24. B 25. D

You should answer 20 or more questions correctly to successfully complete this module. If you have less than 20 questions correct, go back and review the material related to questions for which you gave incorrect responses.

## COURSE FEEDBACK

Please take a few moments to give feedback to the facilitators of this course. Your input will assist them in the development of the Finding Your Way with OC Research training. (This could be done through the learning center or by writing an e-mail to [research@oci.org](mailto:research@oci.org)).

1. What were significant “Aha” moments you had as you worked through this material?
2. Where there some areas of this material that were unclear, difficult to understand or you would appreciate further explanation? If so, tell us about these.
3. How will you apply what you learned in this module to your area of ministry?
4. Feel free to provide suggestions for the improvement of this training module.

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## APPENDIX 1: SUGGESTED RESPONSES FOR WORKSHEET 2.1

### THE INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL FUNCTIONS OF OC RESEARCH

The following are suggested responses for worksheet 2.1.

Dimension	Internal	External
Beneficiary	First, OC team.	Then local/national church.
Function or Purpose	1.to provide information and understanding from which to form ministry goals and objectives	1. demonstrate the value of research
	2. to evaluate ministry effectiveness, based on progress toward goals and objectives.	2. foster ownership of research by national church
Research seeks to understand...	1.Church	
	2.Context	
Research reveals...	1.Church's Purpose	
	2.Church's Felt Needs	
	3.Church's Objectives	
	4.Church's means of self-evaluation	
Key Outcomes	1. Determine RESULTS of church's ministry efforts	National church welcomes, encourages, cooperates with research efforts
	2. Determine adequacy of church's methods	
	3. Determine potential for ministry within and beyond their culture.	National Church initiates/owns research.
Aims for Team Evaluation	a. Evaluate Achievement of Goals	
	b. Evaluate effectiveness of efforts toward goals	
	c. Identify Facts and Factors influencing progress toward goals	
Best Practices	develop relationship with church leaders	do research WITH the church
	develop Partnerships with local churches	
Additional observations or relevant applications		