

FINDING YOUR WAY WITH OC RESEARCH: LEVEL 2

Welcome to Level 2 of Finding Your Way with OC Research. We might entitle this training “Standing on the Shoulders of Giants”, as we will draw from training materials developed by those who laid the foundation of OC Research – Jim Montgomery, Bob Waymire, and Paul Yaggy -- and others who built on the foundation laid. Our present research efforts are indebted to those who have gone before.

Level 2 has in view Mission Information Workers, Field Researchers and Team Leaders already involved in field ministry. Mission Information Workers and Field Researchers are included because they are *providers* of strategic information. Team Leaders are also included in this training because they are *users* of strategic information and thus need to understand the purpose and process of mission research. As leaders, they also need to give direction to those on the team who gather strategic information and encourage the entire ministry team to value, gather and use good information. Viggo Sogaard in “Research in Church and Mission” (1996:9) points out why the whole ministry team needs to have a research mindset.

“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.”

No doubt you are looking at this module because you are involved in ministry and value research. Let’s look at two statements that further clarify the value of research.

“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 team leaders strive to do *intentionally*. So we seek out best practices to gather and analyze information in order to develop effective ministry strategies.

“Every ministry needs research. “

We all want to “bear much fruit” that brings glory to God (John 15:8). Research can help any ministry become more fruitful. These modules will show, step by step, how research contributes to effective ministry. Case studies are used to illustrate how research leads fruitful ministry.

The aim of this training is to help you become more intentional and competent in your use of mission information. So as you work thorough these modules, you will have opportunity to apply what you are learning to your own area of ministry by developing appropriate research projects.

Although Level 2 of Finding Your Way with OC Research is still under development, at least ten modules are anticipated. These modules are:

Module 1: The Purpose for OC Research

Module 2: The Research Process

Module 3: Defining the Research Question

Module 4: Developing the Research Plan

Module 5: Data Gathering

Module 6: Basic Data Analysis for Mission Workers

Module 7: Reporting Research Results

Module 8: Introduction to Qualitative Research

Module 9: Developing Effective Ministry Strategies

Module 10: Evaluating Team Ministry

These modules are designed to work through sequentially, but you are welcome to look at any module that addresses a particular need that you may have. Team leader, for example, may be more interested in the modules “Developing Effective Ministry strategies” or “Evaluating Team Ministry” than some of the modules directed more toward researchers, like “Introduction to Qualitative Research.”

If you have a burning research question that is not addressed by one of these modules, the Global Research Team will be glad to assist you. Write us at research@oci.org with your research questions.