

# SEEKING TRUTHS

## Understanding Research & Analysis Frameworks: An Interdisciplinary Approach

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### Q. How can we identify best practices in research & analysis methods across disciplines and within today's information environment?

**Summary:** All disciplines have well-established research & analysis frameworks. Yet, there remains a gap in learning and improving research methods and analytical models. An explicit study and application of frameworks across different disciplines may assist with closing this gap. This proposal is intended as an initial step towards identifying opportunities for greater interdisciplinary work. It has found that the role of library & information sciences (LIS) can facilitate adaptable research methods and information assessment analysis.

#### On the horizon:

- Within disciplines, applying frameworks to different sub-disciplines is common. Example: Evidence-Based Medicine (EBM)
- Comparative studies, while limited, already exist. See "Of Note"
- LIS has an established linked to many disciplines' research methods. The next phase for LIS is to apply their understanding of "information" to include analytical models

#### LIS: not another discipline

Characteristic	Other disciplines	LIS
Decision-making	Central to research & analysis framework	Models focus on facilitating research & analysis, not decision making

Framework building

Built from within a discipline and to the specific needs of that discipline

Broadly established frameworks that can be applied to various disciplines & information settings

#### Role for LIS:

- Build research tools & methods that can be applied across disciplines
- Emphasize information literacy & applicability to different disciplines
- Establish channels that continuously support "cross-fertilization" of decision-making across different disciplines

#### Preliminary conclusions:

- Professional disciplines, like medicine and law, are ideal for greater cross-disciplinary scholarship
- There remains limited scholarship on cross-disciplinary study, but a significant interest in learning from other disciplines
- LIS can play a central role in establishing this scholarship, in terms of what the profession already does and what it can do going forward

#### Applying an interdisciplinary approach (potential next steps):

- Complete a literature review of available comparative studies and identify experts
- Identify other applicable disciplines and their frameworks
- Establish working groups that focus on interdisciplinary application of research & analysis models
- Establish a means for applying research & analysis models to different disciplines and a means for reporting results

**Transferable elements:** Whether it is a medical diagnosis, a legal argument, or a threat assessment, core research & analysis methods are present:

- Collection: data needs to be located and gathered
- Analysis: an established methodology for processing the information is implemented
- Interpretation: both the raw data & the analysis require a level of interpretation
- Consequences: the research & final analysis is used for decision-making

#### Of note:

- *Covert & Overt: Recollecting and Connecting Intelligence Service & Information Science.* Williams & Lipetz (2005)
- "Improving Intelligence Analysis by Looking to the Medical Profession" Marrin, S. (2005)
- *Library Science and Intelligence Analysis: Converging Educational Paths:* [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wSbfUZ2bg\\_Y](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wSbfUZ2bg_Y)
- "Understanding and Improving Intelligence Analysis: Learning from Other Disciplines." (2012). Conference. <http://sas.olemiss.edu/bciss>

### Examples of research & analysis frameworks

