

Some Important Qualities of a Good Researcher

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INTRODUCTION

Research is an activity aimed at obtaining new knowledge and applying it to solve problems or questions of a scientific nature. Human beings produce what we call knowledge through research. Scientific research, in particular, uses the scientific method to study a given aspect of reality, either theoretically or experimentally. Or to put it more graphically, and as Laplace said, investigating and discovering is bringing two separate ideas closer together (Gisbert and Chaparro, 2020). Writing about the Qualities of a Good Researcher represents a great responsibility since it is not simple to assemble in a concise manner all the important qualities of a good researcher. Knowing the difficulties lying ahead, I would like to suggest the following qualities: curiosity, analytical ability and foresight, determination, collaboration and communication. The characterization and understanding of these qualities would be extremely helpful to those who are beginning the exciting field of research. To be a good researcher first requires the intention to be involved in research and immediately thereafter to show a dedicated interest to do the best research possible. From there we must accumulate the knowledge needed to advance the current ideas already existent in the research world. The intention of this writing is to introduce qualities that I consider essential for a good researcher to succeed.

The characteristics of a good researcher:

1. Curiosity

They ask questions. An endless thirst for knowledge is what sets the best of the best apart from the others. Good researchers constantly strive to learn more, not just about their own field, but about other fields as well. The world around us is fascinating, be it the physics behind the way light refracts, or the anthropological constructions of our society. A good researcher keeps exploring the world and keeps searching for answers.

2. Analytical ability and foresight

They look for connections. Information is useless without interpretation. What drives research forward is finding meaning in our observations and data. Good researchers evaluate data from every angle and search for patterns. They explore cause and effect and untangle the tricky web that interconnects everyday phenomena. And then take it one step further to ask, ‘What is the bigger picture? How will the research develop in the future?’

3. Determination

They try, try, and try again. Research can be a frustrating experience. Experiments may not pan out how we expect them to. Even worse, sometimes experiments may run smoothly until they are 95% complete before failing. What sets an average researcher apart from a truly good one? The truly good researcher perseveres. They accept this disappointment, learn from the failure, re-evaluate their experiment, and keep moving forward.

4. Collaboration

Teamwork makes the dream work. Contrary to the common perception of the solitary genius in their lab, research is an extremely collaborative process. There is simply too much to do for just one person to do it all. Moreover, research is becoming increasingly multidisciplinary. It is impossible for just one person to have expertise in all these fields. In general, research is conducted in teams, with each researcher having their individual roles and responsibilities. Being able to coordinate, communicate, and get along with team members is a major factor that can contribute to one’s success as a researcher.

5. Communication

They get their message across. Communication skills are an essential asset for every researcher. Not only do they have to communicate with their team members, but they also have to communicate with co-authors, journals, publishers, and funders. Whether it is writing a crisp and effective abstract, presenting at a conference, or writing a persuasive grant proposal to secure research funding, communication appears everywhere in a researcher’s life. The message in the old adage, ‘If a tree falls in the forest, but no one is around to hear it, does it make a sound?’ applies to research too. A discovery could be groundbreaking, but what is the use if the researcher can’t communicate this discovery to the rest of the world?

CONCLUSION

These are just a few of the skills required by researchers to make it to the top of their field. Other attributes like creativity and time management are also worth mentioning. Nevertheless, having one or more of these top five characteristics will make the research process smoother for you and increase the chances of positive results. Set yourself up for success by building up these skills, focusing on excellence, and asking for help when you need it.

REFERENCES

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