

Research Article

Kickresearch Module: The Beginner-Friendly Guide to Kickstarting Effective Research

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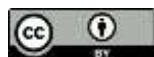
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Abstract: The KickResearch Module is a structured and efficient research module designed to help research beginners conduct thorough research projects. This module provides a standardized template that enables researchers to follow a systematic and structured writing flow. KickResearch is unique in that it offers a solution to those who lack resources or expertise to conduct high-quality research. It is both novel and useful as it streamlines the research process and helps produce high-quality research within a reasonable timeline and budget. KickResearch's potential for commercialization is high as it can be applied to various research topics and industries. The practicality and uniqueness of the KickResearch module lies in its 5-step process that can be completed within a 6-month timeline. Firstly, researchers refine their research theme or topic to ensure that it is relevant and feasible for the scope of the project. Next, they read the literature to identify the existing research and identify gaps in the knowledge. Thirdly, researchers plan data collection by identifying the appropriate methods and tools for their research. Fourthly, they identify stakeholders who can contribute to their research and engage with them. And for the final step, researchers begin drafting their research paper or report, taking into account the feedback and insights gained from their research process. This process ensures that researchers have a clear and structured path to follow, allowing them to efficiently produce high-quality research output. The KickResearch Module package includes a user-friendly log sheet consisting of a 5-steps research process, a systematic reading template, and an effective writing guide. Researchers can easily modify these log sheets and templates to suit their specific research needs and study specifications. The module provides guidance and support throughout the entire research process, making it an essential tool for anyone seeking to conduct a thorough research project. Its practicality and uniqueness make it a valuable asset to researchers across different industries and disciplines.

Keywords: KickResearch; research process; standardized template; high-quality research; time management.



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1. INTRODUCTION

KickResearch Module (also known as KickResearch) is a research module designed to assist research students and early career researchers in starting and completing a research project successfully. It includes various resources such as guidelines, reading templates, and research logbooks to ensure a streamlined and organized research process. KickResearch aims to help users save time, improve research quality, and ensure that they stay on track with their project goals. The module can be accessed through a variety of platforms such as MS Teams and Google Drive, and is designed to be user-friendly and accessible for beginners.

In recent years, there has been a growing trend towards the use of advanced research tools in various fields of study. The use of tools such as project management software, data visualization tools, and machine learning algorithms is becoming increasingly common in various research fields (Ahmadi, Delkhosh, Deshpande, Patterson, & Ruhe, 2023.; Chen, Zhang, Yu, Wang, Duncan, Zhou, X, ... & Yang, 2022). However, the use of such tools requires expertise and training, which can be a barrier for researchers who are new to the research process. The KickResearch Module provides a solution to this problem by offering a comprehensive and user-friendly research framework that guides researchers through the research process, from the initial stages of refining the research theme to starting the first research draft. The Module includes a variety of tools and resources such as templates, guidelines, and checklists, which can help to increase the efficiency and productivity of the research process. By providing a structured framework and emphasizing collaboration and communication, the KickResearch Module can enhance the quality of research while also saving time and resources.

2. METHODS & MATERIAL

KickResearch is developed based on a thorough analysis of the needs of research students and early career researchers. The process began by identifying common challenges faced by individuals starting and completing research projects, such as time management, organization, and information overload. The goal was to create a comprehensive module that addresses these challenges and supports researchers throughout their project journey. It is suitable for early-career researchers who are just starting a new project, graduate students who are embarking on a research project, and undergraduate students who are eager to explore research or begin a research project of their own. In addition, KickResearch caters to individuals who are interested in learning about the research process, including academicians and industry partners. With its comprehensive guidelines, reading templates, and research logbooks, KickResearch offers a user-friendly and streamlined approach to research, ensuring that users save time, improve research quality, and remain on track with their project goals. The main objective of KickResearch is to offer a complete research module package that assists early-career and inexperienced researchers in efficiently starting and completing a research project. This package comprises various resources, such as guidelines, templates, and tools, which can be used for refining research themes/topics, reading literature, planning data collection, identifying and connecting with stakeholders, and drafting research reports. The ultimate goal of KickResearch is to simplify the research process and enhance the quality of research outputs.

3. FINDINGS

The KickResearch module is a practical and structured approach to the research process, guiding researchers step-by-step through various stages of their project within a 6-month timeline. The process includes refining the research topic, reading literature, planning data collection, identifying and connecting with stakeholders, and starting the research draft. To help with this process, KickResearch provides a logbook and reading template to track progress and take notes. This timeline is reasonable and beneficial for early-career researchers who may face constraints such as limited resources, funding, and time. By setting specific milestones and deadlines, researchers can manage their time efficiently, ensuring progress and productivity. With a 6-month timeline, there is enough time to

conduct thorough research, analyze data, and prepare a meaningful and comprehensive report or publication. KickResearch offers a comprehensive set of resources and support to help researchers successfully execute a research project. Its structured approach allows for a streamlined research process, resulting in high-quality research outputs.

3.1 The rationale of a 6-months timeline in the KickResearch Module

The 6-months timeline in the KickResearch Module is based on several rationales that have been identified through research experience and best practices. One of the key rationales is that the timeline provides a reasonable and achievable timeframe for many research projects, especially for early-career researchers who may have limited resources, funding, and time. Moreover, a 6-month timeline allows for a structured and systematic approach to the research process, with specific milestones and deadlines to ensure progress and productivity. The timeline helps to create a sense of urgency and accountability, ensuring that the research project stays on track and is completed within a reasonable timeframe. Additionally, a 6-month timeline provides enough time to conduct thorough research, analyze data, and prepare a meaningful and comprehensive report or publication. The timeline enables researchers to conduct quality research and produce valuable outputs, while also accommodating the constraints of time and resources. The proposed timeline helps to manage the expectations of stakeholders, including funders, supervisors, and collaborators, who may require a clear timeframe for the completion of the research project. Having a defined timeline can help to communicate progress and ensure that all parties are aligned with the research goals and objectives. Furthermore, the timeline provides a reasonable and achievable timeframe for conducting quality research while accommodating the constraints of time and resources. It also helps to ensure progress and productivity, manage stakeholder expectations, and provide a structured and systematic approach to the research process.

Table 1. KickResearch Module Timeline

Steps/months	M1	M2	M3	M4	M5	M6
1. Refine the research topic & theme						
2. Read, read, and read!						
3. Plan data collection process						
4. Establish contact with stakeholders						
5. Start the research draft						

3.1.1 Step 1 – Refine the research theme

The first step of the KickResearch module is to refine the research topic and theme, which spans a period of one to two months. This stage involves the researcher choosing a specific theme or topic to focus on for their research project. It is important to choose a topic that is not too broad and is manageable within the given timeframe. The researcher needs to conduct initial research to gain a better understanding of the subject matter and determine the feasibility and potential impact of the topic. This involves gathering information from various sources, such as academic journals, books, and online resources. The initial research will help the researcher to identify any gaps in the current knowledge or understanding of the topic and determine if it is worth pursuing further. At the end of this stage, the researcher should have a clear and specific research topic that is feasible, relevant, and significant. It is important to note that this stage is crucial in laying the foundation for a successful research project. Choosing the right topic will make the entire research process more manageable, and will help to ensure that the project is completed within the given timeline.

3.1.2 Step 2 – Read, read and read!

Step 2 of the KickResearch Module involves the critical task of conducting an extensive literature review, which is a fundamental part of any research project. The aim of this step is to gain a comprehensive understanding of the current state of knowledge in the field, gather ideas and inspiration for the research, and identify potential sources of data. There is a crucial need for researchers to contribute to the body of knowledge by conducting literature reviews that offer new insights or perspectives on a particular topic (Lim, Kumar & Ali, 2022). The literature review process begins with searching for relevant articles, books, and other sources of information in databases, online libraries, and other relevant platforms. It is important to note that this includes social media platforms as well, as they can provide valuable insights and perspectives from experts and practitioners in the field. Once sources are found, it is essential to evaluate them carefully, taking into account the quality, relevance, and validity of the information they provide. This evaluation process involves critically analyzing the content, methodology, and data used in the source to determine its credibility. It is also crucial to take detailed notes and categorize the information to make it easier to summarize and synthesize. By doing so, researchers can identify common themes, patterns, and gaps in the literature and use this information to refine their research question and design. Reading continuously throughout the research project is also emphasized in this step as it allows for ongoing learning and updating of knowledge. Through continuous reading, researchers can stay up-to-date with the latest trends and advancements in their field and ensure that their research remains relevant and impactful.

In conducting literature reading or review, it is important to have access to a wide range of resources and tools. Online research and online platforms such as Google Scholar, Research Gate, Scopus database, PubMed, WoS database, Facebook, Instagram, and other social media platforms are excellent resources for finding relevant information. In addition, AI tools such as Quillbot, ChatGPT, Zotero, and Google Scholar can help researchers in various aspects of the research process. Quillbot, for example, can assist in paraphrasing and rewording content, while ChatGPT can help with generating research questions or providing suggestions for further research. Zotero and Google Scholar are useful for organizing and managing research references and citations. To effectively manage the large amount of information gathered during the research process, researchers should use a reading template to sort out important research information. A reading template can help to categorize information, take notes, and track sources. Another useful strategy is to search for leading authors in the field. This involves finding seminal authors in the research area and examining their current research interests and publications. By following the work of leading authors in the field, researchers can gain insights into the latest developments and trends in the research area.

3.1.3 Step 3 – Plan data collection

Step 3 of the KickResearch module involves data collection planning. To ensure a robust and reliable research study, it is recommended that the types of data to be collected, such as qualitative, quantitative, or a combination of both, are carefully determined by the researchers. It is essential to align the data collection with the latest trends in the field, ensuring the relevance and importance of the research project. The selection of appropriate methods for data collection, such as surveys, interviews, observations, or experiments, is also crucial. Researchers must evaluate the advantages and limitations of each method to determine which one(s) are most suitable for their research project. Once the data collection methods have been identified, it is essential to develop a data collection plan. The plan should outline the steps to collect the data, the timeline for data collection, and the methods that will be used to ensure the quality and validity of the data. At this stage, it is advisable for researchers to plan the analytical tools that will be utilized during the data analysis phase, as the selection of appropriate tools can assist in streamlining the research process (Lesnikowski, Belfer, Rodman, Smith, Biesbroek, Wilkerson... & Berrang-Ford, 2019). Careful planning and implementation of the data collection plan

will lead to a more accurate and reliable research study, contributing to the significance and impact of the research findings.

3.1.4 Step 4 – Establish contact with stakeholders

In step 4 of the KickResearch module, stakeholders are identified and engaged to ensure that the research project aligns with their needs and expectations. Stakeholders can include individuals, groups, organizations, or communities who may be impacted by the research findings or who have a stake in the research process. To identify stakeholders, researchers should conduct a thorough analysis of the research topic and the potential impacts of the research. This analysis can include a review of existing literature and consultation with experts in the field. Once stakeholders have been identified, researchers should develop a plan to engage with them throughout the research process. Effective stakeholder engagement involves creating open and transparent communication channels, sharing information and updates regularly, and soliciting feedback and input. This engagement can be facilitated through a variety of methods, such as surveys, focus groups, interviews, or community meetings. Researchers should also consider the ethical implications of their research and ensure that stakeholder interests are prioritized throughout the project. By involving stakeholders in the research process, researchers can enhance the relevance and impact of their research, and build strong partnerships with the communities they serve.

3.1.5 Step 5 – Start the research draft

The final step of the KickResearch Module involves starting the research draft. The researcher should begin by organizing their notes and data in a coherent and logical manner, aligning with the research objectives and the overall research theme. The draft should follow a structure that is appropriate for a research proposal, typically consisting of an introduction, literature review, and research methodology. The language used in the draft should be clear, concise, and objective, with proper citations and references to previous studies in the field. It is essential to follow the guidelines and standards set by the chosen journal or publication for the research paper, including the formatting, word count, and citation style. The researcher should also aim to produce a high-quality draft that is free of errors and inconsistencies, which may require multiple rounds of revisions and editing. Overall, starting the research draft is a crucial step in the research process, as it sets the foundation for the final output and ensures that the research is well-organized and presented in a clear and concise manner.

3.2 KickResearch Module package: Log sheets, reading template and writing guide to assist researchers

The KickResearch Module package is a comprehensive set of resources designed to guide early-career and novice researchers through the research process, from refining the research topic to completing a research project effectively and efficiently. One of the critical components of the package is the log sheets, reading template, and writing guide, which are designed to assist researchers in tracking their progress and improving the quality of their work. The log sheets provide a structure for researchers to record their activities, including meetings with stakeholders, data collection, and analysis. The sheets also have spaces for notes, allowing researchers to keep track of their thoughts and ideas throughout the research process. By using log sheets, researchers can easily monitor their progress and identify areas that need improvement. The reading template is another valuable resource provided in the KickResearch package. It helps researchers organize and synthesize the information they gather during the research process. The template provides a framework for categorizing and summarizing research articles, books, and other sources of information. Researchers can use the reading template to identify common themes and trends in the literature, helping them develop a deeper understanding of the topic. Finally, the writing guide is an essential resource for researchers looking to improve the quality of their research reports. The guide provides guidelines for structuring the research report, including the introduction, methodology, results, and discussion sections. It also

provides tips for writing clear and concise sentences, organizing information logically, and presenting data effectively. By following the writing guide, researchers can ensure that their research reports are well-structured, easy to read, and communicate their findings effectively. These tools are valuable resources provided in the KickResearch package. They help researchers stay organized, track their progress, synthesize information, and improve the quality of their research reports. By using these resources, researchers can develop and execute a successful research project from start to finish.

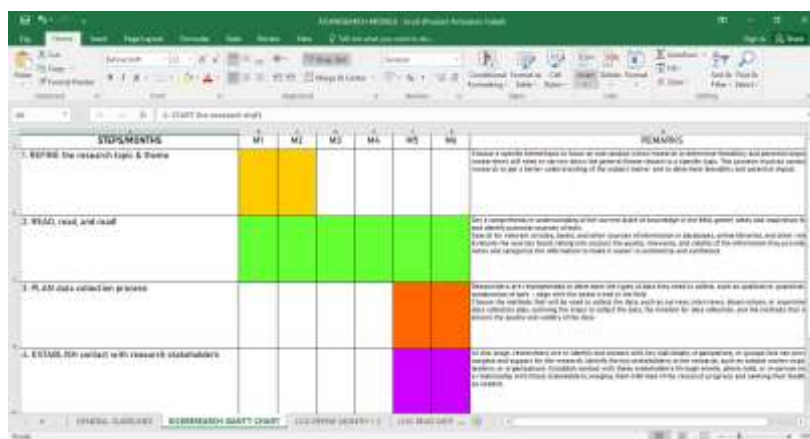


Figure 1. KickResearch Module (Gantt Chart)

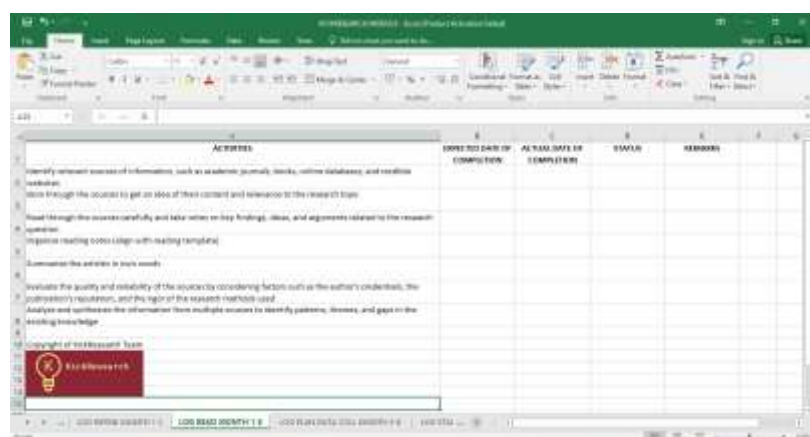


Figure 2. KickResearch Module (Log sheets)

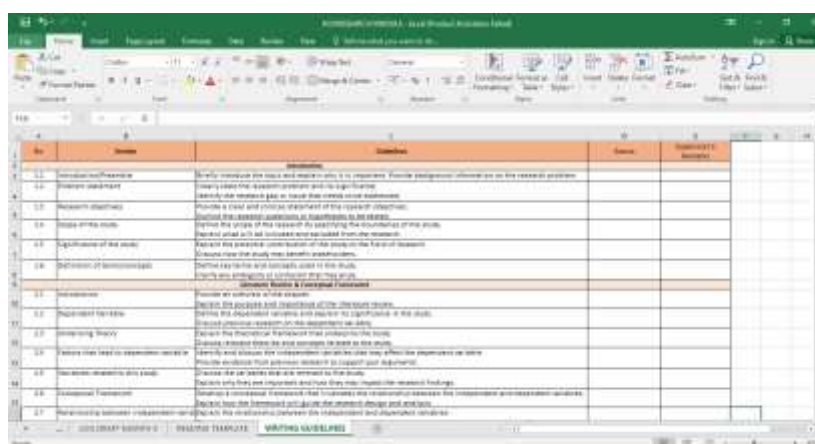


Figure 3. KickResearch Module (Writing guidelines)

3.3 Novelty of KickResearch Module

The KickResearch Module introduces several novel features that set it apart from traditional research frameworks. The module offers a comprehensive research package that includes guidelines, templates, and tools to facilitate the research process, making it user-friendly and accessible to a wide range of users. KickResearch also allows users to customize the research process to meet their specific needs, providing a flexible framework for conducting research. The emphasis on collaboration and communication among research team members creates a platform for sharing ideas, tracking progress, and resolving issues. Additionally, the focus on efficiency helps researchers save time and resources, allowing them to focus on their research questions and hypotheses. Overall, the KickResearch module offers a unique and effective approach to conducting research that can benefit researchers at all levels, from undergraduate students to industry professionals.

Table 2. Novelties of KickResearch Module

Novelty	Elaboration
Comprehensive Research Module	KickResearch offers a complete package for researchers starting a new project, including guidelines, templates, and tools to facilitate the research process.
User-Friendly Platform	The module is designed to be user-friendly, making it accessible to a wide range of users, from undergraduate students to industry professionals.
Customizable Features	KickResearch allows users to tailor the research process to their specific needs, providing a flexible framework for conducting research.
Emphasis on Collaboration	The module encourages collaboration and communication among research team members, providing a platform for sharing ideas, tracking progress, and resolving issues.
Focus on Efficiency	By providing a structured framework for research, KickResearch helps researchers save time and resources, allowing them to focus on their research questions and hypotheses.

3.4 Practicality and usefulness KickResearch Module

The practicality of KickResearch is highlighted by its capacity to provide a structured and comprehensive approach to the research process. By breaking down the research process into manageable steps and providing guidelines, templates, and tools, KickResearch can assist researchers in staying organized, efficient, and focused. This structured approach can be especially useful for beginners or those who are unfamiliar with the research process. KickResearch also encourages careful planning and thorough documentation, thereby promoting the production of high-quality research and avoiding common mistakes. Collaboration and communication among team members can be promoted through KickResearch, leading to better research outcomes. Moreover, KickResearch is a versatile tool that can be used by a wide range of individuals, from undergraduate students to industry partners, making it a valuable resource in various research contexts. Finally, the 6-month timeline provides a realistic and appropriate timeframe for researchers to conduct thorough research and analysis.

The usefulness of KickResearch lies in its ability to provide a structured and comprehensive approach to the research process. This approach can be especially helpful for beginners or those who are not familiar with the research process. KickResearch provides researchers with guidelines, templates, and tools to help them plan and execute their research project, which can lead to more efficient and productive research. One of the key benefits of KickResearch is its ability to enhance the quality of research. By promoting careful planning and thorough documentation, KickResearch can help researchers produce higher quality research and avoid common mistakes. In addition, KickResearch can be used by a wide range of individuals, from undergraduate students to industry partners, making it a versatile tool for a variety of contexts. KickResearch also encourages collaboration and communication among team members if used within a group. This can lead to better research

outcomes and improved relationships among team members. Furthermore, KickResearch increases efficiency and productivity by providing tools such as templates and checklists, allowing researchers to stay organized and on track. Generally, KickResearch provides a practical and useful tool for researchers of all levels and backgrounds. By providing a structured approach to the research process, promoting careful planning and thorough documentation, and encouraging collaboration and communication among team members, KickResearch can help researchers produce high-quality research efficiently and effectively.

Table 3. Practicality and usefulness of KickResearch Module

Practicality of KickResearch	Usefulness of KickResearch
Provides a structured approach to the research process, helping guide researchers through planning and execution.	Increases efficiency and productivity by providing tools such as templates and checklists to help researchers stay organized and on track.
Breaks down the research process into manageable steps, making it helpful for beginners and those unfamiliar with the research process.	Enhances the quality of research by promoting careful planning and thorough documentation, which can help researchers produce higher quality work and avoid common mistakes.
Offers guidelines, templates, and tools that can be customized to fit the specific needs of researchers.	Encourages collaboration and communication among team members, which can lead to better research outcomes.
Can be used by a wide range of individuals interested in the research process, from undergraduate students to industry partners.	Saves time and resources, allowing researchers to focus on their research questions and hypotheses.

3.5 Potential for commercialization

The potential for commercialization of KickResearch is substantial, as it offers a comprehensive and user-friendly guide to the research process. The module can be marketed to a wide range of audiences, including universities, research institutions, and individuals interested in conducting research. For universities and research institutions, KickResearch can serve as a valuable tool for training and guiding novice researchers, as well as for enhancing the research process of experienced researchers. The customizable features of KickResearch also allow for flexibility in adapting the research process to suit the specific needs of different research projects and institutions. Individuals interested in conducting research, including those in the private sector, can benefit from KickResearch's structured approach and user-friendly platform. By providing a comprehensive guide to the research process, KickResearch can help individuals without formal training in research to navigate the process and produce high-quality research outcomes. The potential for commercialization of KickResearch lies in its ability to offer a valuable service to individuals and organizations looking to start or improve their research projects. By providing a structured and customizable framework for conducting research, KickResearch can help improve the efficiency, productivity, and quality of research outcomes.

4. DISCUSSION

In this paper, we introduced the KickResearch Module, a comprehensive and user-friendly research package designed to guide researchers through the research process. We discussed the various features and novelties of the module, highlighting its potential to enhance the quality of research and increase efficiency and productivity. The KickResearch Module offers a structured approach to research, breaking down the research process into manageable steps and providing guidelines, templates, and tools to help researchers stay organized and focused. This structured approach can be especially useful for beginners or those unfamiliar with the research process. The module's user-friendly design also makes it accessible to a wide range of users, from undergraduate students to

industry professionals. Moreover, the KickResearch Module encourages collaboration and communication among research team members, providing a platform for sharing ideas, tracking progress, and resolving issues. This emphasis on collaboration can lead to better research outcomes and ultimately enhance the quality of research produced. The module also has potential for commercialization, as it can be marketed to universities, research institutions, and individuals interested in conducting research. Its user-friendly and accessible nature makes it a valuable tool for those looking to start or improve their research projects. The KickResearch Module has the potential to improve the quality of research and increase efficiency and productivity in the research process. By providing a structured approach and encouraging collaboration and communication, the module can be a valuable asset to researchers in a variety of contexts.

5. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the KickResearch Module offers a comprehensive and user-friendly package to guide researchers through the research process. Its structured approach, customizable features, and emphasis on collaboration and efficiency make it a valuable tool for both beginners and experienced researchers. The potential for commercialization also highlights the module's value and relevance in the research community. The KickResearch Module has the potential to improve the quality of research produced, increase efficiency and productivity, and encourage collaboration and communication among research team members. It is our hope that this module can be widely adopted and used to enhance research projects across a variety of disciplines and contexts.



Figure 4. KickResearch logo

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