

## **TYPES OF RESEARCH (based on methodology)**

### **QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH**

#### **Descriptive (What is the current situation?)**

- numerical data gathered through tests, surveys, observations, interviews
- variables are not manipulated but are measured as they occur
- subgroups may be compared on some measure
- two or more variables of a group may be correlated
- does not attempt to identify cause of differences or relationships, just if they exist

#### **Experimental (What is the cause?)**

- at least one variable is manipulated and its effects are measured
- subjects randomly assigned to experimental treatment and control groups who are treated the same except for the treatment variable -determines cause and effect
- (when intact groups are used it's called quasi-experimental)

#### **Ex post facto/Causal comparative (What was the possible cause?)**

- identifies an effect that has already occurred and attempts to infer cause
- a treatment variable (alleged cause) is identified (but not manipulated) and effects are measured
- groups exposed to the treatment variable are compared to groups who are not
- identification of cause can be called into question because groups were not randomly assigned and other extraneous variables were not controlled

### **QUALITATIVE RESEARCH**

#### **Historical (What was the situation?)**

- description of past events, problems, issues, facts

-data gathered from written or oral descriptions of past events, artifacts, etc.-  
describes what was in an attempt to reconstruct the past

-involves much interpretation of events and its influence on the present

**Ethnographic (What is the current situation?)**

-in-depth analytical description of educational systems, processes, and  
phenomena within a specific context based on detailed observations and  
interviews

-detailed examination of a single group, individual, situation, or site is called  
a case study