



# Action Research at Shortwood

George R. Dawkins

Director of Research, Development & Projects



# Objectives

1. To provide the knowledge, skills, and resources to departments for conducting action research
2. To develop an awareness of the research opportunities at Shortwood
3. To provide scholarship and ongoing professional development

# Research at Shortwood

- [..\..\USF Technology course\EDG 6931 Special Topics Introduction to Technology.doc..\..\USF](#)
- [course\Random Call Cards=EDG 6931.doc](#)
- [..\..\Course evaluation\Shortwood Teachers College Teacher Evaluation Instrument-revised 08-nov..doc](#)
- [..\Research Day\Subcommittee job description revised.doc](#)
- [..\..\dissertation references Copy Copy.enl](#)



# Organization of Seminar

1. Assess your knowledge base
2. Develop a framework for conducting Action Research
3. Group Activity: Identify issues, concerns, problems in department or college
4. Refining to specific research problem, writing research questions, and design considerations
5. Follow-up work: department proposal

# Assessing Knowledge Base

K	W	L

# What is action research?

- **Action research is systematic inquiry done by teachers** (or other individuals in an educational setting) to gather information about, and subsequently **improve**, the ways their particular educational setting operates, how they teach, and how well their students learn (Mills, 2000).

# Uses of Action Research

1. When you have an educational issue, concern, or problem to solve/address
2. When educators want to reflect on their own practices
3. When you want to address school-wide problems
4. When teachers want to improve their practice

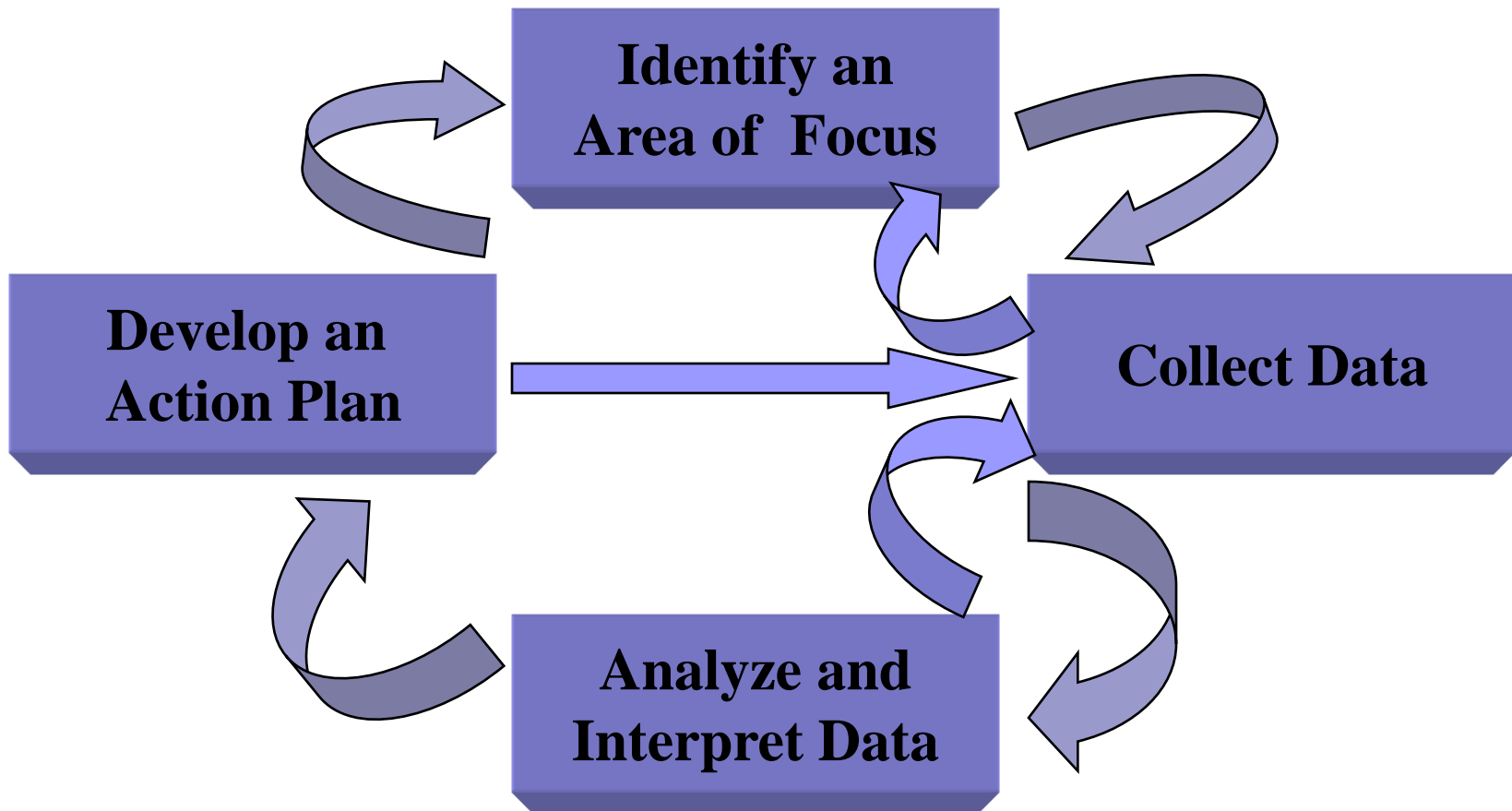
# Types of action research designs



- **Studying local practices**  
Involving individual or team-based inquiry
- **Focusing on teacher development and student learning**
- **Implementing a plan of action**
- **Leading to the teacher-as-researcher**

- **Studying social issues**  
that constrain individual lives
- **Emphasizing equal collaboration**
- **Focusing on “life-enhancing changes”**
- **Resulting in the emancipated researcher**

# Practical Action Research: Mills (2000) Research Spiral



# Group Activity: Phase 1

Department learning groups

- Identify at least one issue, concern, or problem in your department for study (Think-Square-Share) 10 mins.

# Example from Shortwood

- View Research Outline from Students' Affairs Office
  - [Research Conceptualization=students' Affairs office=19.11.08.doc](#)
  - [Questionnaire Students Affairs=revised 19.11.08=clean.doc](#)



# Group Activity: Phase 2

1. Topic
2. General problem/issue/concern
3. Purpose of Study
4. Specific Research Problem
5. Research questions

# The Research Problem and other Research Steps

- A **research topic** is the broad subject matter being addressed in a study.
- A **Research problem** is an educational issue or problem in the study
- A **purpose** is the major intent or objective of the study.
- **Research questions** are questions the researcher would like answered or addressed in the study.

# Research Opportunities at Shortwood

1. Tracer study on the level of implementation of instructional practices of Shortwood graduates
2. Indicators of students academic success at Shortwood
3. Models of teaching of Shortwood Faculty
4. Utilization of intellectual capital at Shortwood
5. Student retention at Shortwood
6. Strategies for student recruitment at Shortwood
7. Profile of Shortwood students
8. Impact of Shortwood graduates of Jamaica's (Educational) Development
9. Factors influencing staff retention at Shortwood
10. Best practices at Shortwood

# Examples of Research Interests

1. Factors contributing to School violence
2. Intervention plans to address high levels of illiteracy
3. Survey of Drug abuse in schools
4. Curriculum design for schools to become agents for social and moral change
5. Curriculum Development, implementation and Evaluation
6. High incidence of divorce
7. Survey of Best pedagogical practices
8. Survey of the characteristics of Effective schools

# Examples of Research Interests

## 1. Survey of:

- Students' attitude to Mathematics
- Teachers' attitude to teaching
- Teachers' planning for instruction/classes
- Teachers' attendance to school
- Teachers' attendance to classes
- Students' reading deficiencies
- Time and motion study of actual teaching time in schools



# Examples of Research Interests

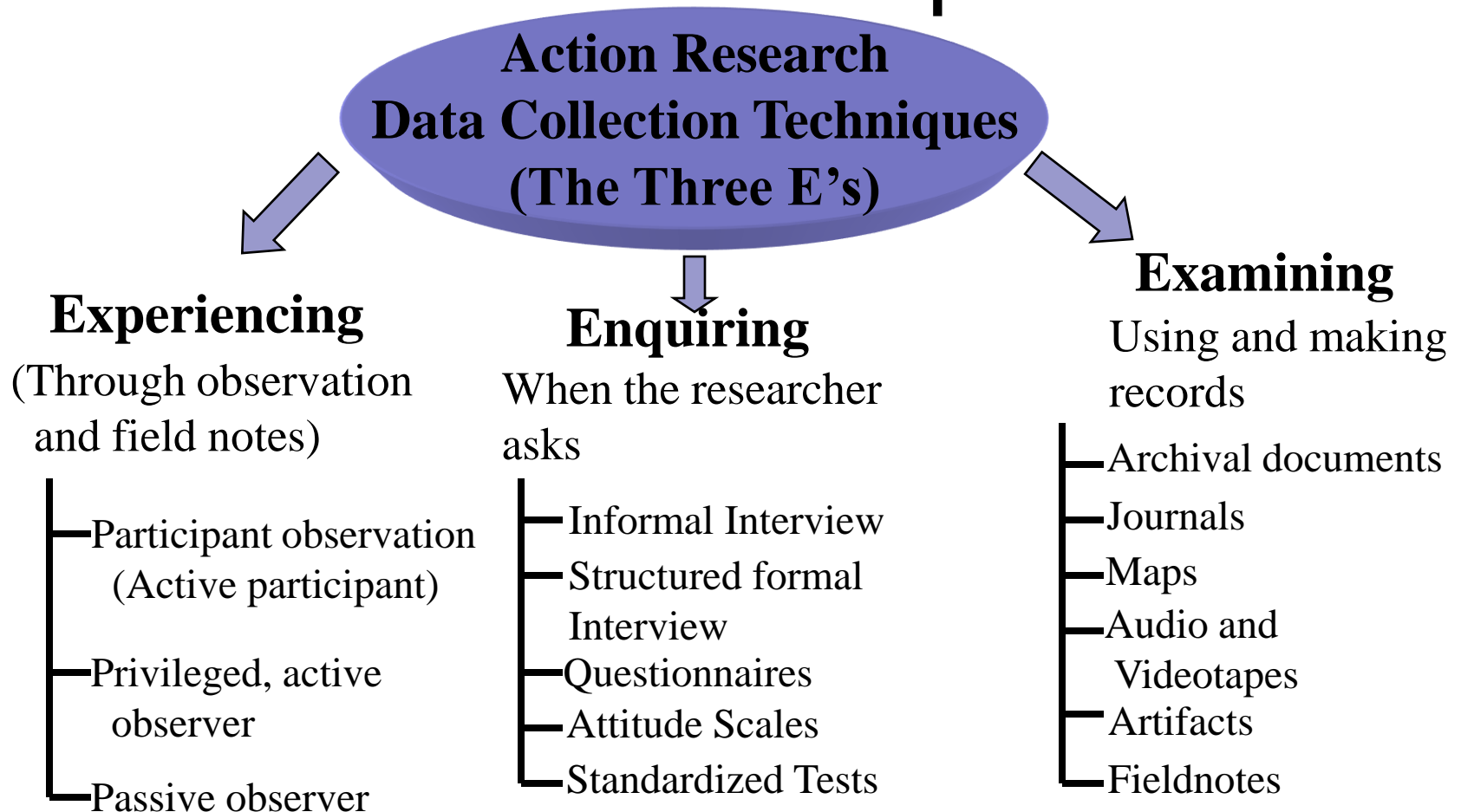
1. Sexual promiscuity among teenagers
2. Impact of homework programmes
3. Programme for the socialization of males
4. Factors influencing male truancy
5. Lack of motivation of males for higher education
6. Gender disparity in academic achievement



# Examples of Research Interests

1. Male aggression
2. Students' Motivation
3. Low CXC Achievement
4. Single Parenting
5. Early Sexual Exposure of Teenagers
6. Sexual Behaviors of Students
7. Planning for Instruction among Teachers

# Taxonomy of action research data collection techniques



# Group Activity: Phase 3: Triangulation Matrix

<b>No.</b>	<b>Research Questions</b>	<b>Data Source # 1</b>	<b>Data Source #2</b>	<b>Data Source #3</b>
1				
2				
3				



# Steps in Conducting Action Research

- Implement the data collection
- Analyze the data
- Develop a plan for action
- Implement the plan and reflect

# Assignment/Action

- Proposal to be submitted to the Office of Research ....
- View Proposal outline
  - [Action Research Proposal Outline.doc](#)