

Research process and Research Practice



Strathmore University
Centre for Intellectual Property and
Information Technology Law



Strathmore
UNIVERSITY

Research process



1. Research Projects

Typically, research projects will come from one of three places: grants that CIPIT has won from which we get our research objectives and outputs. Second, project ideas can come from conferences CIPIT can apply to or panels and workshops we can attend. Third, from YOU. You can propose a research topic or grant you'd like to apply to and craft the objectives and outputs. Team members can reach out to a research fellow or the research manager about the project they would like to undertake, and accompany it with a concept note.

2. Research Team

The project needs will dictate the size of the team and the help you will need. Outline these in the beginning, set up weekly or fortnightly check in meetings where everyone has objectives, deadlines and outputs for the next meeting and the overall project.

3. Time and Project management

Designate at least 20 minutes of your regular meetings to track project progress and outputs as well as any blockers that come up and any communications that need to be made. Ensure that research participants and stakeholders are communicated to effectively and make time for a check in with the research manager on the above

4. Inclusive practice

Every project has an angle of inclusivity that we can study and learn from. Inclusivity refers to considering

underrepresented peoples or aspects of projects. Consider gender divides, disability divides and socioeconomic divides when it comes to either Intellectual Property or Information Technology. Consider marginalized peoples and persons who lack digital literacy, these are all persons often excluded from research consideration. From the 'Research Practice' document, pick out facets of inclusivity in your project and champion them to include vulnerable and marginalized groups

5. Communicating project outputs

Different media gives us exposure and visibility. An output can be a report, a blog post, social media posts (with the communications team) as well as circulation on our newsletter and to our stakeholders, journal publications, or any combinations of the above. The goal is to select a means of dissemination that maximizes public engagement with the research output.

6. Closing Projects and reflective practice

Success! The project has ended, final reports made and is now in its closing stages. At the end of the project, team leaders should work on a reflective practice of the project. This is a separate brief internal document outlining what worked, what didn't work, where we could improve and opportunities for further collaboration in future.



Strathmore University

Centre for Intellectual Property and Information Technology Law

Research practice

How can we inculcate an inclusive research practice into the work that CIPIT does?

! In each project you undertake, keep in mind the following research practice principles that form the bedrock of inclusive practice:

1. A rejection of strict objectivity as feasible and as a goal.

Being an inclusive researcher is realizing that the choice of research question is a subjective and political choice and therefore, no research is objective. Even once the question is decided, choices from what to measure to the words in reporting are also subjective and political

2. Individuals' experiences, life histories, and stories are not only valuable, but critical to understanding social interaction.

Our work does not exist in a vacuum or a silo. It's important when you undertake a project to consider the context of the project and to consider the historical contexts of the persons you may be interviewing or whose literature you're relying on. In the long term it will grow your research and critical thinking skills

3. Explicit consideration of the ethics of relationships among all the people who interact on a research project.

Inclusive research moves beyond the simple notion of reciprocity as paying people for their participation time. Interviewees and interviewers enter into a relationship of mutuality. This means that your

demeanour toward a participant should be grounded in respect for their time and answers as well as acknowledgement of their position of knowledge on the subject.

4. An explicit orientation towards change in social institutions, structures, and cultures

Since inclusive researchers believe that the current society is organized in such a way as to support oppressive structures, inclusive research is always motivated by a desire for change, hence inclusive research is often located within a critical theory perspective. This means that you must challenge the existing norms and hierarchies that can dominate current research perspectives. Consider histories of oppression and vulnerability. Consider expanding your ideas and skillset when it comes to research.

5. Attention to the marginalized people in a social context

As a researcher, you should work to ensure that every person is heard or at least effectively represented. Since traditionally research has used the majority/dominant social groups as the focus, inclusive researchers often study vulnerable groups since their voices have not been heard



Strathmore University

Centre for Intellectual Property and
Information Technology Law