

**Southern Chapter/ Medical Library Association
Award Criteria for Research PAPERS**

At the Annual Meeting, the Research Committee coordinates judging of all research papers using the following criteria.

STUDY DESIGN:

25 total points, each item scored on a scale of 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree).

1. The research design is clear, unique, creative, and original.
2. The hypothesis, research question, or research statement is clearly stated.
3. Overall, the design is appropriate for testing the hypothesis or answering the research question.
4. Methodology, environment, and population are clearly defined.
5. The study contributes to the field of health sciences librarianship.

VALIDITY:

25 total points, each item scored on a scale of 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree).

1. The research methodology and selected methods for data collection (randomization, surveys, focus groups, selective sampling, etc.) are the most appropriate for testing the hypothesis (or hypotheses), answering the question(s), and/or addressing the significance of the project posed by the researcher(s).
2. The conclusion of the research is relevant to the stated purpose.
3. A reasonable conclusion is drawn from the use of the research methodology.
4. The approaches (including data collection, sampling, data analysis, outcome assessment, etc.) are appropriate in drawing conclusions.
5. The study's results exhibit sufficient statistical strength or other evidence (historical, case study, field observations, etc.) to support the conclusions.

RELIABILITY:

15 total points, each item scored on a scale of (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree).

1. This study can be replicated in another information setting.
2. The results can be generalized beyond the site studied.
3. The research results are reliable when compared with any similar research published in the professional literature.

IMPLICATIONS:

10 total points, each item scored on a scale of (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree).

1. The implications of the results are presented.
2. Recommendations for further research are addressed.

PRESENTATION:

20 total points, each item scored on a scale of 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree).

1. The researcher presents the study and findings in an organized and comprehensible style.
2. Facts, numerical data, graphs, charts, tables, or other visuals are attractively presented.
3. Visuals are relevant and greatly enhance understanding of the project presented.
4. Elements of the presentation (purpose, literature review, methodology, results, discussion, and conclusion) are accurate, current, and clearly outlined.

TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS = 95