

Research topics on Medieval Baltic:

- cities and trade – Hanseatic league, amber route
- religion and politics – Teutonic knights, northern crusades
- tribes and languages – Runic, Latin, local dialects, Vikings
- personalities – rulers, fighters, educators, traders
- heritage – Roskilde, Jelling, Luebeck, Gdansk, Riga, Rauma,
- European Capital of Culture 2011 – Tallinn, Turku



Motivation of research

Curiosity and interest

The missing information

Finding out the reason and purpose (meaning and value)

Social, political, economic, cultural and historical context

Status questionis : former research material, theory and interpretation

Source of Research

Internet

Library

interview

archives

Field trip observation

recording, photos with caption, discussion, Report, writing article

Research perspective

Comparative

Thematic

Case study

Geographic

qualitative research

quantitative research

horizontal

vertical

http://web.archive.org/web/20091018214317/http://uk.geocities.com/balihar_sanghera/qrmmehrigiulhi/historicalresearch.html

Notter (1972) points out that historical research extends beyond a mere collection of incidents, facts, dates, or figures. It is the study of the relationships among issues that have influenced the past, continue to influence that present, and will certainly affect the future (Glass, 1989).

Historical research allows the contemporary researcher to "slip the bonds of their own time" and descend into past. This provides access to a broader understanding of human behavior and thoughts than would be possible if we were trapped in the static isolation of our own time.

understanding the historical nature of phenomena, events, people, agencies, institutions

historical development of ideas, progression of social forms,

grand cycles rather than to linear progression

August Comte 孔德 (1798-1857)

read history as a progression from religion to science,

Pitirim Sorokin 索羅金 (1889-1968) suggested that societies alternate cyclically

"ideational" and "sensate" through a third point of view, the "idealistic." which

combined elements of the sensate and ideational in an integrated, rational view of the world.

The central role of the historian is the interpretation of data in the light of historical criticism. Each fact and supposition must be carefully weighted and added to the case, leading to the research conclusion. Most researchers organize either by date or by concept/issue. Historical evidence is obtained from historical data by means of historical criticism.

External criticisms establish the authenticity of collected data 真實性

Internal criticism to evaluate and analysis the accuracy and validity of the data

準確性和正確性

Writing the report

To synthesizes the data and writes them up. It is a case of constantly revising, reflecting, obtaining criticism and advise from others, in order to develop the most logical organization and valid conclusions from the evidence analyzed and to meld pieces of information into a meaningful whole. 有意義的綜合

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<http://www.cas.sc.edu/socy/faculty/deflem/zhistory.htm>

Sources

The past is present through the traces it left behind. These form the sources of historical investigations, also called historical material, documentary evidence, or historical sources (Pitt 1972:14-33). They include material remnants, written and/or

otherwise recorded sources (primary and secondary), and oral history.

Investigating Historical Material

- 1) Identification and selection
- 2) Registration and Classification
- 3) Critique and Confrontation: to check for the accuracy of sources.
- 4) Analysis: the options are wide open: qualitative or quantitative, interpretation or explanation, structured or unstructured, within the context of theory and research strategy. This relates to the various stages of research design. The most traditional model is as follows:
 - a) theoretical proposition,
 - b) conceptualization of the theoretical constructs, and formalization of a model, the relationships between variables;
 - c) operationalization of the variables stated in the theory, so they can be measured (indicators)
 - d) observation, the actual measurement. The inquiry can be deductive, from theoretical logic to empirical observations (theory-testing), or inductive, from empirical observations to the search for theoretical understanding of the findings of the observations (theory-construction).

Every research is based on a research proposal containing

literature review,

theoretical framework, etc.,

methods section mentioning methodological issues and issues of data collection.

research driven by your interests

theoretically informed

methodologically sound

methods:

agreement

difference

agreement and difference

residues

concomitant variations