



## Review Article

**International Journal of Basic and Clinical Studies (IJBCS)  
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### **An Algorithm for Research Project and Reasons of Rejection**

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#### **Abstract**

A project is an algorithm developed for a systematic solution. An algorithm is to solve a problem, to show the solution systematically with a flowchart or a set of instructions to complete a task. Solving more complex problems today requires a higher style of thinking, planning. Complex structure expects higher solution. Therefore, the solutions chosen should be methods that simplify the complex structure. In the field of biostatistics, multivariate statistical methods developed for complex problems should be used. As in all research, the cause-effect relationships of the hypothesis should be well planned while planning the project. In the selection of the topic for the research project and the stepwise solution of the algorithm, the researcher must consider the five basic features. These are respectively: 1) Validity, 2) Reliability, 3) Generalizability, 4) Unbiased and 5) Completeness. These are the most effective features in rejecting or accepting the project by the committee. These five gold criteria should be considered in a Research Project. In the algorithm constructed for the research project, each stage should be structured in a successful, short, and informative. The most common mistakes made in the projects are as follows: writing the project, the cost for the project, the presentation, budget, aim, preparation the time, technical language, including ambiguous and stereotypical writing in the Project, Author's disregard for the directive, the project does not comply with the objectives of the funding institution.

**Key Words:** Research Project, Algorithm for Project, Writing a Project

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In the selection of the topic for the research project and the stepwise solution of the algorithm, the researcher must consider the five basic features.

These are respectively: 1) Validity, 2) Reliability, 3) Generalizability, 4) Unbiased and 5) Completeness. These are the most effective features in rejecting or accepting the project by the committee. These five gold criteria should be considered in a Research Project (1).

A project is an algorithm developed for a systematic solution. An algorithm is to solve a problem, to show the solution systematically with a flowchart or a set of instructions to complete a task. A general project algorithm is given in Figure 1.

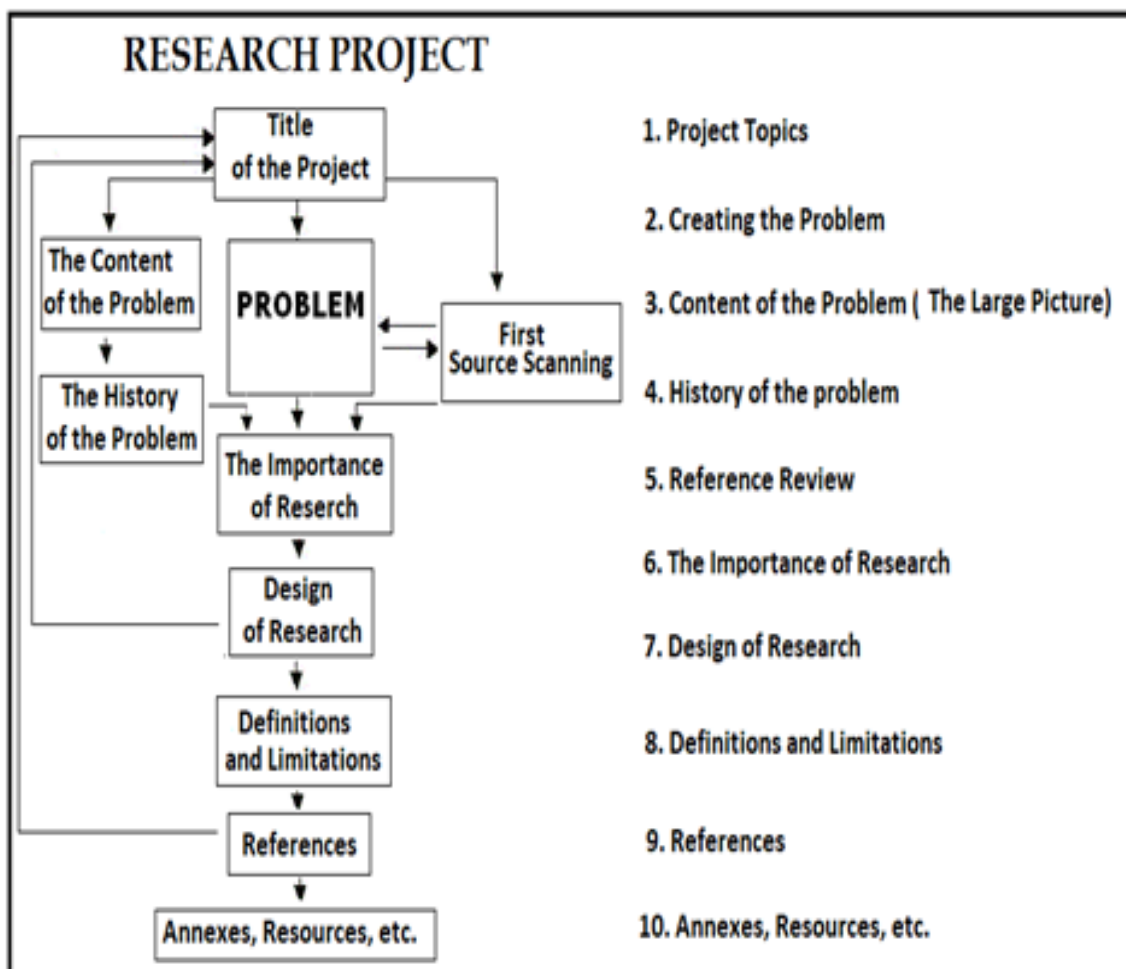


Figure 1. A general project algorithm

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**Project Title**

A project is an undertaking designed to examine present practice, propose change, and test the implementation of change.

The title of the project should be short, concise, and meaningful. Titles make a difference. The title should clearly describe and describe the content proposed in the project. It must have revealed the inherent meaning of the work at a glance. The words used in the title should be very selective. It is a fact that the headlines that move the reader are more attractive. However, it is disappointing that the content of the project, which is under a very impressive title, is not important. Therefore, the project title should be able to explain the content directly (2).

**Problem: Establishing the research problem**

A well-defined research problem is half the solution. It is an important start in terms of creating a research problem, directing the research, and obtaining interesting results. It provides whether the research is interesting and the confidence to be built into the research.

There should be a project organizational structure that allows team members and key stakeholders to participate in problem solving and decision making (3).

It should be noted that defining the research problem is a combination of experiences and feelings. Developing the research problem and managing the study is like building one's own home. Although some have sufficient knowledge of architecture, others need helpers to consult on this issue.

The research problem, as some people do when choosing, there is nothing against reason and logic as much as going and looking for problems. The problem should be chosen from among the problems that hit them in the clinic or workplace where people experience or work daily. However, in such a case, a solution to a problem is solved. To put it a little more clearly, the best research problem is the problems that hit us. This situation is defined as a "problem strike".

Taking a problem we know the answer to as a research problem and proving its accuracy by collecting lots of data is nothing more than a waste of time. Regarding the specified problem, the solution should be more than one and the solution should be suspicious.

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**Literature review**

This section includes the literature review for the project. Although this section is included in most project reports, some reports may not. Does the project owner have a good command of the scientific literature about his research? Have the resources been used in the project report? Did they associate the resources with the project? such questions should be answered. The literature review shouldn't be too detailed.

**The importance of the research**

Research refers to a search for knowledge. Research is the art of scientific investigation. Research is to test a hypothesis of a causal relationship between variables. Importance in the research should be written about why the study should be done (4).

As stated in the problem statement, it should be explained how the study will make a practical and theoretical contribution to the relevant field. The point to be considered here is that the problem explained in the problem should not go beyond the framework. Because when the problem in the project was written, it was written by considering the limitations of the research. For this reason, while explaining the importance of the study, it should be emphasized how to bring innovation to the scientific field in line with the purpose. The work may be applied, semi-applicable, or theoretical. Regardless of the field, how the project data will contribute to this field should be written.

**Research design and other subsections in research**

The design of the research is an important step in showing the scientific dimensions of the project. A simple research design, of course, does not impress. For the research design to be well planned, it is necessary to be an expert in this field. Of course, it is not possible to establish a good design without knowing the research methods. Researches that will contribute to a scientific field need to work in a team.

The method section in the project should answer the following two questions:

1. How were the data in the study collected and created?
2. How were the data analyzed?

In other words, explain to the reader how the data was obtained. Explaining how the data will be obtained allows the reader to evaluate the validity and reliability of the results. Validity and reliability are two important terms that will be explained in more detail in the following topics. The methods to analyze the data are also important for the reader. Is the

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statistical method simple and unable to explain variation? Or is it an advanced level that can explain the complex structure? The reader should be adequately illuminated on the subject.

The scientific level of the projects prepared today is much more advanced than before. The Internet, literature search resources, and other tools lead to better research projects.

For the research problem to be an important project to be accepted, it must carry out some predetermined stages. These stages are listed below (5):

1. Brief description of the project (summary)
2. What has been done before about the subject in the project and its importance (purpose)
3. Methodology
4. Budget
5. Study results
6. Institutional approval

**SUMMARY AND PURPOSE OF THE PROJECT**

Summary and purpose are the two most important pages in the project. They are the most read by reviewers. Let's examine them in order (6,7).

**Brief description of the project (summary)**

A summary is included with each project. It is a fact that some readers only read the summary. The summary is a short description that provides information for the whole project. Some funders publish only summaries of the projects being carried out. Therefore, the summary should explain the project well.

A brief explanation of the subject aimed at the project is included in the summary section. This explanation should be concise. The importance of the research, the hypotheses to be addressed and the contributions it will provide should be written in an explanatory way.

This section should explain what you want to do and why. The problem with the project is explained in two or three sentences. Reference should not be given here. What is to be done is explained. There are "to be measured" and "to be determined" sentences.

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It is stated that this section should contain the following information.

1. The purpose of the research
2. The importance of research
3. What has been done before for the subject in the project and its feasibility
4. Briefly providing appropriate information about the target population, hypotheses, and methodology.
5. To make a statement about the contribution of the project to the field of health and the relevant discipline

**PURPOSE**

The objective format is more readable because it takes a wider. If the purpose is written in a logical and informative way, it can create the first image of a "good project" about the project.

The project starts with writing the purpose. With good writing of purpose, examiners can feel the importance of the problem identified, the hypotheses to be tested, and the strength of the study. It is suggested that "one page" is required for the purpose (8,9).

**Importance and Purpose**

Explain the problem and emphasize its importance. This should be one or two sentences. Much detail should not be given. For example, while giving importance to a computer system for a laboratory, it can be boring to talk about detailed results about this system.

**Theoretical model**

Here it is explained to which model the problem is related. The problem is defined and its theoretical structure is discussed. Going out of the subject should be avoided.

**Hypotheses**

Specific hypotheses should be written here. It should be stated by which hypotheses the problem and logical structure will be explained. This section carries an important meaning. Written hypotheses must be testable. Current hypotheses increase the importance of the project.

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**Determining subject-specific objectives**

It is the place for state-specific objectives. This section may cover the last half of a page reserved for the purpose. Here, the aim is explained to its suitability within the theoretical structure. Reference should not be used.

A successful purpose section (one page) should be readable within three minutes. There should be a section where the objectives and importance of the project, the theoretical structure on which the study is based, the hypotheses that can be tested, and the tests to be used.

What has been done before and the importance of the subject in the project should be carefully explained. The development of a research project is above all a process of developing a plan by focusing on an important application and purpose. The project developed is an important option to convey the research thinking of the researcher to others.

While discussing what has been done on the subject before, care should be taken to ensure that the project is relevant. After each title, it should be explained to the reader how the results of the research project provide solutions in the relevant field.

What has been done before on the subject in the project should include the following points.

1) Information should be given about the content of the problem. Sufficient information should be provided about why the problem is so widespread, its severity, and its importance.

2) Sources related to the subject should be written. While giving references, the direction of the research and the information gap in this field should be expressed. In general, sources older than 10 years should not be cited, except for specific studies.

3) Explain why the study needs to be done and why the research is appropriate and necessary for the target population. The study should address the general public. It should be stated that the statistical methods required in the study will be used and a pilot study will be carried out to obtain the data more accurately. The pilot study will also provide insight into whether the hypotheses will work correctly.

4) The study should be based on a strong theoretical structure. It should not be forgotten that readers attach importance to this situation. It should be emphasized that, rather than just collecting data, the established hypotheses will be tested with the necessary statistical methods and these are determined in advance. Indeed, it should be noted that there is an open mind about rejecting the hypotheses, even when the trial results do not support the hypotheses.

5) It should be shown that the relevant study contributes to the available information.

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**Methodology**

The method described in the project is directly related to the written problem and the research purpose. Because the problem and purpose in research lead to the use of different methods. The research is for a purpose. It is a systematic search for new knowledge, skills, attitudes, and values. Research is also involved in the reinterpretation of knowledge, skills, attitudes, and values.

Research design and the main purpose of the methods; It is important as more reliable information will be presented to the reader. Design and method are the basic components of the research and express how reliable the results to be obtained are.

Details should be given for the following points.

1. Giving information about the design of the study (descriptive, comparative, monitoring method, case-control, quasi-experimental, randomized) and why this design was chosen.
2. Data collection method (how to collect data, who will collect data, which methods will be used)
3. Methods for training researchers or interviewers
4. Applicability of special facilities or equipment
5. Methods related to the management of participants and reliability of publications
6. Methods for the applicability of animal studies
7. Possible risks in research staff, study participants, and protective methods for hazardous situations

If the limitations of the study and these limitations will have negative effects on the application of the study, the alternative methods developed should be briefly discussed.

It would be appropriate to give a timetable of the works to be completed during the project. The timeline should show exactly the work planned in the study and should be in line with the budget.

Since the researchers lack sufficient statistical information, they should consult a Biostatistics expert or recruit a biostatistician to the team. Because not to make mistakes in subjects such as sampling, data collection, and data analysis, choosing and applying the most accurate research design and method requires being a specialist in biostatistics.

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The following should be included in the methodology section:

1. What data should be collected
2. Specification of criteria to include and not to include for data and participants
3. A clear indication of the source of data or participants' inclusion
4. How to determine the control group
5. Research materials and data collection forms. Copies of these must be given in annexes.
6. The sample size should be sufficient to explain the variance in the control and test groups. The power provided by the sample size should be specified. The adequacy of the sample size should be based on certain statistical information. It should be stated how long it will take to obtain this sample size.
7. Analysis and evaluation of data. It should be stated by which statistical methods the relevant hypotheses will be evaluated and the suitability of these methods, and how to solve the missing data problem should be written.

### **Budget**

Funding sources require different amounts of detail in the budget. A large amount of detail may be required for official government funding. Usually, it is requested to write the details in the previously prepared form.

### **Study results**

Study results; It can be defined as the product obtained at the end of the research. It is stated how the results of the study will contribute to scientific studies. How do these results benefit society? The facilities it will provide in daily life, and perhaps who will be harmed, should be clearly stated.

### **Institutional approval**

You must make sure that the work is approved by your institution and ethical rules. Ethical rules are issues that must be followed at all times. They are advertised to investigators. These rules will be included in the future. You should keep in mind that the missing project

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will return or be delayed. The steps mentioned above are important steps for the project. These must be completed and meticulously fulfilled.

The steps that can be followed in the project at a glance are briefly stated below.

- **Title**
- **Summary**
- **Research problem**
- **Suitability of the project**
- **Scanned resources**
- **Aims of the study**
- **Research methods**
  - I. Study design
  - II. Person or subject included in the study
    - a) Inclusion / exclusion criteria
    - b) Sampling
    - c) Data acceptance plan
    - d) Method of separating the groups to be worked on
  - III. Data collecting
    - a) Variables, results, predictors, surprises
    - b) Measurements / instruments
    - c) Methods
  - IV. Conducting experiments in experimental research
  - V. Statistical significance
    - a) Sample size
    - b) Analysis of data
- **Ethical significance**
- **The work plan**
- **Budget**

**Required Conditions to Make the Research Project More Attractive**

There is no magic formula for a research project to be successful. It should not be forgotten that different projects can be prepared on the same subject. Generally, many people, especially new researchers, have a high expectation that the projects they prepare will receive funding.

**To make the research project noticeable (10,11):**

**1. The idea put forward in the research is new**

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Acceptance of the research project especially requires that the thinking be new. It is necessary to remember the fact that scientific development develops with new ideas. The fact that the idea put forward has not been previously resolved by others is the most important reason for accepting the research project. It is possible to present a project as a continuation of a previous research study. It would be more accurate to show that the prepared research project is research with original aspects independent from others. It is always more appealing to propose a new idea.

**2. The proposed research fills a gap in the field of science.**

The fact that the proposed research fills a gap in the future development of the discipline you are interested in is an important consideration for its contribution to the discipline. This becomes even more attractive if this gap in science will make an important contribution to the wider community.

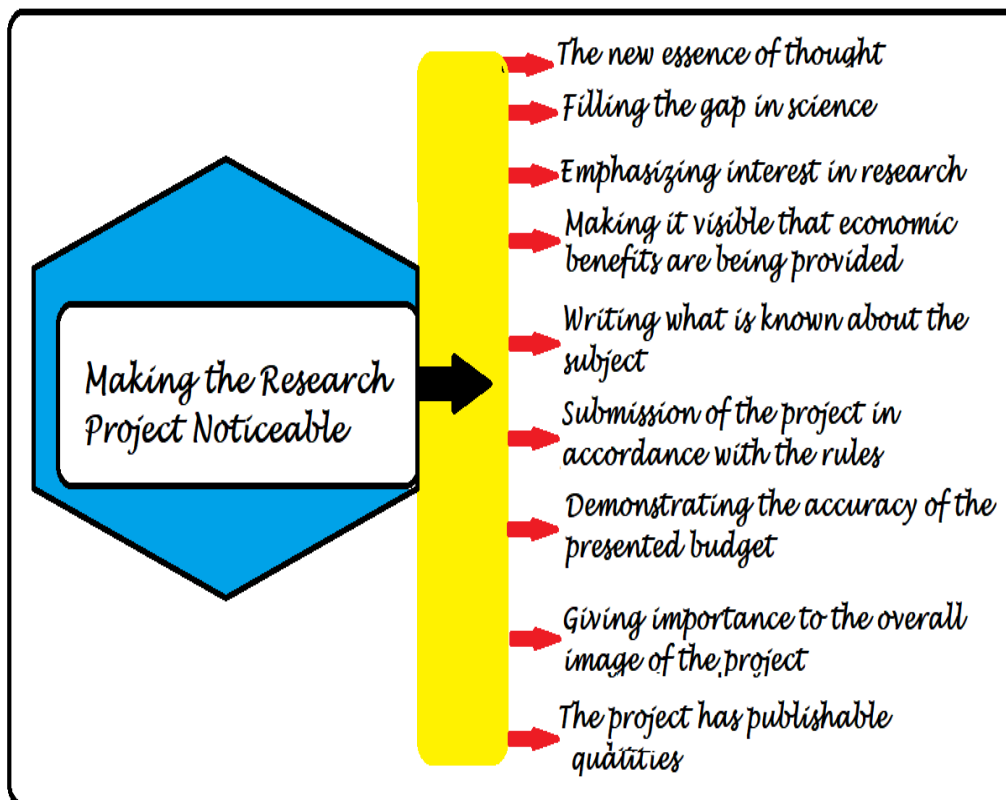
**3. Emphasizing the researcher's interest in research**

It should be successfully emphasized that the proposed research is closely related to the researcher's field. It is necessary to explain the belief that the researcher is in a study related to the research and how the results will be beneficial. For this reason, the researcher should explain how his theoretical knowledge will be successfully reflected in the research and how to use the benefit from the results to be obtained.

**4. Making it visible that the proposal is economically beneficial**

The economic benefits of the research project to society should be clearly stated. At the end of the project, the economic benefit to be obtained from the proposals and the proposals that create a cheaper cost for the society make the research attractive.

However, it makes the research weak as it would make it visible that a proposal that requires a stay in Europe for six months to achieve the results of the research, is pushed into the background in terms of emphasizing personal benefit.



### **5. Intention for the research to be printable from the outset**

It means that the publication is special if it is mentioned that the planning is done at a level that can be presented in a journal or conference that is characteristic of the research results. It is a fact that the proposed research will generally be more effective than prepared for publication.

### **6. Writing what is known about the subject in the research project**

It is important to write your information about the subject in the research project in terms of giving confidence to the other party.

### **7. Presenting the research project by the rules**

Knowing the audience is half the battle. It should not be forgotten that those who read the research project are experienced and knowledgeable people who can reason about the research. However, they may not be experts in the project that requires a feature. In a project

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where very technical terms are written, non-experts may be more likely to reject it. For this reason, it is necessary to write the research simply and understandably in general. The use of the terms, correctly, and appropriately and if they are written in a certain order will make it easier to understand.

If a research project is to be presented to a board, it should never be presented technically, as a publication in a serious journal. The listeners may not be experts in the presented subject. It is obvious that in this case, it will not be possible to understand.

**8. Demonstrating the accuracy of the budget presented in the research project**

In the research, it should be written how many test tubes and papers are needed. These should be determined by the view of the person conducting the study rather than the academician. The materials required for the research should not be possessed but should be requested in the amount required for the research. Can't the existing material in the department or laboratory be used? or why the desired computer should be the latest model, why the existing computers cannot be used in this study should be written.

**9. Giving importance to the general image of the research project**

The overall appearance of the research should be attractive. People who believe that academic understanding should be at the forefront neglect the general appearance and design of the research. Appearance matters. Presenting the brilliant ideas in the research project in a way that lacks appearance puts the project in a weak position.

**BUDGET**

The budget section of an ideally prepared project should be in such a way as to make one say "The budget is deemed appropriate for the work presented". The ideal presentation should leave nothing to change.

The budget is a section that is very carefully studied by each member. It should be noted that the reviewing members are experts in their fields. It should not be forgotten that they are experienced in how necessary the devices or substances required in the project and in what proportions they will be used. The members may question the issues they deem unnecessary while examining the budget.

Different types of research projects have very different budgets. Let's try to examine a budget structure that will appeal to the general public (12,13).

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**False Logic**

In some projects, researchers exaggerate the budget by acting on the logic of "Let's write as much as the amount to be cut in the project's budget" in the budget of the project. This logic can cause a lot of misunderstanding and increases the possibility of rejection of the project. On the contrary, the budget should be very tight. Each written amount of money should fully reflect the item to be purchased or spent. In a valuable project, the review committee can't issue the exact amount of money without justification.

**Employee**

In private research, money should be allocated for the expenses of the personnel who will be on duty. There are several categories of personnel to be employed here. The salaries to be allocated to persons such as the project manager, assistants, technicians, and secretary who will take part in the first plan should be in different amounts. In addition, it should not be forgotten that if some people are used as models or surveyors in the research, money should be allocated to them.

**Consultant Cost**

Representing a consultant in the project is a subject that will strengthen the research. The names of the consultant or consultants and the amount of money to be paid should be written. It should not be forgotten that there is a cost to getting ideas and this represents a prestige to scientific work. However, it is necessary to show a written document stating that the consultant is voluntary. Unfortunately, it is a shortcoming that most projects do not go beyond thanking the consultants. Appropriating the help received from counselors poses an important ethical problem and weakens the research. Because every knowledge has an expert. It is necessary to show in the project that knowledge that requires expertise is treated with respect and that real scientific contribution is received. It is important to know that it is not possible to obtain important research results from half-applied information. It is necessary to know that this problem will be overcome to a great extent if the right team is established at the beginning and a strong work arising from the unity is planned.

**Supplies**

Research can't be carried out without equipment. The actual prices of the equipment must be reflected. There should be no extravagance in writing the materials. Repurchase of equipment that can be utilized from the existing research laboratory is not appropriate. If the research is based on experimental animal work, it is perhaps the subject that will mostly cover the fee. Therefore, it is necessary to be careful in writing expenses for the experimental animal. Most of the time, experimental animal fees are given or known by the university. However, the most important issue to be considered here is the number of experimental animals. What should

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be the number of experimental animals? The question is a situation that can only be decided with a biostatistician. Researchers sometimes write more experimental animals than necessary, and sometimes they specify too few experimental animals to confirm the statistical results. Specifying the number of more or less experimental animals brings with it an ethical problem. An excess number of animals means animal slaughter, and less number of animals means wrong and insufficient research results. Reporting and publishing false research results poses an important ethical problem.

**Trip**

Travel, if necessary in research, is generally a positive and unquestioned aspect. A separate fee can be written for each individual participating in the research. An average of \$1,000-1,500 is written for each individual abroad. The broad scope in the logic of research causes the amount of money devoted to travel to be tolerated. Of course, the fact that the researcher is conscious of the fact that travel makes an important contribution to research should not be in doubt.

**Type of Writing and Technical Details in the Project**

The way of writing and technical details in the project closely affect the perspective of the project. The following conditions should be observed.

- The way of writing in the project must comply with the rules set by the fund to which the project will be presented. Fund rules must be strictly followed.
- The general view of all pages of the project should be the same. Using different fonts, printers or photocopier pages on some pages will cause a bad image.
- Pictures to be included in the project must be original and must not be photocopied elsewhere. It seriously affects the view towards the project.
- The article should be concise. To ensure that the project can be read quickly, there should be two blank lines between the paragraphs and the font should be written in 12 points. The text must be legible. It is not correct to compress a lot of words in a small area by choosing a very small font.
- Diagrams related to the subject should be placed. There should be diagrams that explain the importance of the subject, reflecting the relevant hypotheses.
- Figures should explain data well, carry information, and give quick messages to the reader. It should be ensured that the figures are attractive, understandable, and simple.

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- Punctuation, spaces, underlined words, paragraphs, figures, tables, flowcharts should be used in the text and these warnings should be well reflected in the reader's eyes. The structure needs to be clear and logical.

- A believable language should be used. Active, moving words should be included. Simple sentences should be created in which the claims can be better understood. Passive sentences should be avoided.

**Reasons for Project Rejection**

Generally, late submission of projects is a justification for not being accepted. Projects that are unreasonable or ineffective are rejected. Rejected projects are generally projects that did not state the hypothesis in the project very well, that was written too long, yet demanded a lot of money. Those who write that making extreme claims together and that they will achieve things beyond the desired technology cannot be very convincing. Sometimes, projects that require teamwork and those who state that they will do the hypotheses alone are not accepted. It should not be forgotten that a good project requires a good work team. Not every project rejected is due to incompetence, but sometimes it is of high quality and the amount of money in the budget cannot be financed (14).

Some authors, the reasons for the rejection of the projects; they stated that a part of the project was omitted or poorly written, the project was poorly written, there were unorganized hypotheses, or the project was rejected by chance. The rejection of the project does not mean that the hypothesis has been rejected.

The result of the researchers' work to reveal the most common mistakes while writing a project, stated the "10 most common mistakes made in projects" as follows (15,16).

1. The writing is not concise or comprehensible: having the finished project read by a person who does not have any training on the subject allows the incomprehensible parts to be written more clearly and clearly.

2. Inaccuracy, inaccuracy, or exaggeration of the estimated cost for the project: This is the most important reason affecting the credibility of the submitted project.

3. Presentation of the project (printing or grammatical errors): Mistakes can give the reader information that has a different meaning. The project should be read to the third person before it is presented.

4. Project budget does not match the hypotheses described, or some costs in the budget are not mentioned or included in the narrative: The project budget should fully reflect the activities involved in the project.

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5. The objectives of the project are not very clear and open to individual comments: The objectives must be measurable. Objectives should not be specific or measurements should not explain uncertain assessments.

6. The project should not have the appearance of being hastily put together: It should not give the appearance that the project can be prepared in a more organized manner in a larger period.

7. The project should not be full of incomprehensible technical language and abbreviations: It should not be ignored that the members who will evaluate the project may not be experts in the same field and will not understand all written or abbreviated terms.

8. Including ambiguous and stereotypical writing in the project: Non-explanatory writing style is meaningless to the reader. For example, see number 7! Articles like this bore the reader because they were not understood.

9. Author's disregard for the directive: Each institution has published a directive regarding the project to be presented. Project writing and layout should be by the order in the relevant directive.

10. The project does not comply with the objectives of the funding institution: If the prepared project does not comply with the expectations of the funding institution, the project will not be accepted.

The reasons for the rejection of the projects are published from time to time by different researchers and institutions. The percentage distribution of the reasons in 605 projects rejected by the National Institutes of Health is given as follows (17).

1. Proportion of those who were rejected due to the problem in the project: 58%
2. Proportion of those who were rejected because of the approach in the project: 73%
3. The rate of those who were rejected due to the inadequacy of the investigator: 55%
4. Proportion of those rejected for other reasons: 16%

specified as. It was stated that the reason why the total was not 100 was due to more than one mistake in a project.

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