How to Research: A Presentation for Non-Research Actuaries

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Active participation in the Society of Actuaries is an important aspect of membership. While the positive contributions of professional societies and associations are well-recognized and encouraged, association activities are vulnerable to close antitrust scrutiny. By their very nature, associations bring together industry competitors and other market participants.

The United States antitrust laws aim to protect consumers by preserving the free economy and prohibiting anti-competitive business practices; they promote competition. There are both state and federal antitrust laws, although state antitrust laws closely follow federal law. The Sherman Act, is the primary U.S. antitrust law pertaining to association activities. The Sherman Act prohibits every contract, combination or conspiracy that places an unreasonable restraint on trade. There are, however, some activities that are illegal under all circumstances, such as price fixing, market allocation and collusive bidding.

There is no safe harbor under the antitrust law for professional association activities. Therefore, association meeting participants should refrain from discussing any activity that could potentially be construed as having an anti-competitive effect. Discussions relating to product or service pricing, market allocations, membership restrictions, product standardization or other conditions on trade could arguably be perceived as a restraint on trade and may expose the SOA and its members to antitrust enforcement procedures.

While participating in all SOA in person meetings, webinars, teleconferences or side discussions, you should avoid discussing competitively sensitive information with competitors and follow these guidelines:

• Do not discuss prices for services or products or anything else that might affect prices
• Do not discuss what you or other entities plan to do in a particular geographic or product markets or with particular customers.
• Do not speak on behalf of the SOA or any of its committees unless specifically authorized to do so.
• Do leave a meeting where any anticompetitive pricing or market allocation discussion occurs.
• Do alert SOA staff and/or legal counsel to any concerning discussions
• Do consult with legal counsel before raising any matter or making a statement that may involve competitively sensitive information.

Adherence to these guidelines involves not only avoidance of antitrust violations, but avoidance of behavior which might be so construed. These guidelines only provide an overview of prohibited activities. SOA legal counsel reviews meeting agenda and materials as deemed appropriate and any discussion that departs from the formal agenda should be scrutinized carefully. Antitrust compliance is everyone’s responsibility; however, please seek legal counsel if you have any questions or concerns.
Presentation Disclaimer

Presentations are intended for educational purposes only and do not replace independent professional judgment. Statements of fact and opinions expressed are those of the participants individually and, unless expressly stated to the contrary, are not the opinion or position of the Society of Actuaries, its cosponsors or its committees. The Society of Actuaries does not endorse or approve, and assumes no responsibility for, the content, accuracy or completeness of the information presented. Attendees should note that the sessions are audio-recorded and may be published in various media, including print, audio and video formats without further notice.
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SOA Research

- [www.soa.org](http://www.soa.org) Click “Research”
- Practice Research reports
- Experience Studies
- Tools / Models / Calculators

2000-2016 Long-Term Care Aggregated Databases

This report details the method taken to develop the aggregate databases of the 2000-2016 Long-Term Care Intercompany Experience Study. It contains definitions for each of the data elements in these databases. It should serve as a user guide for anyone working with the aggregated databases. The aggregate data set consists of two data files, (1) the claim incidence file and (2) the claim termination file.

Reports and Databases

Long Term Care Intercompany Experience Study - Aggregated Database 2000-2016 Report
Claim Incidence Database 2000-2016
Claim Termination Database 2000-2016

(Please note that these files may take several minutes to download.)

2018 LTC Data Request
SOA Research

• Broad Categories and Practice Areas
SOA Research

• Strategic Research Programs

• Research Expanding Boundaries / Current Events Pools

• Academic Grants through Committee on Knowledge Extension and Research (“CKER”)

• Diversity / Equity / Inclusion program
SOA Research: Increasing tools / interaction

Graph 2. Comparison of Conditional Probabilities of Death: 2017 Divided by 1999

Graph 3. Annualized Rate of Mortality Improvement Across the Period from 1999 to 2017
SOA Research

- Dissemination and Feedback
- Google Analytics
  - Downloads / Page Views
- Feature Researchers and Reports with Media Outlets
- Webcasts
- Meeting Sessions
- Research Insights Podcast
- SOA and Member Social Media
- @SOActuaries
- @rdalehall

Podcast out now highlighting our @SOActuaries COVID Symposium next week. Help us recognize your health care heroes by sending us people you know to honor and recognize. #SOACOVID19
soa.org/prof-dev/event...

The Society of Actuaries published its first COVID-19 research brief in March, and has followed up with regular updates and expansions. This report provides updates to most of the data from the Key Statistics section of the comprehensive brief, plus additional hospitalization and demographic data organized by geography.
#actuaries #COVID19 #actuaryresearch http://ow.ly/Tlhx50BhtJF

COVID-19 Update: Key Statistics on Cases, Deaths and Hospitalizations
SOA Research

• Getting Published and Getting Involved
• [https://www.soa.org/research/opportunities/research-proposal-list/](https://www.soa.org/research/opportunities/research-proposal-list/)

• Expanding types of output: Calls for Essays

• Get Involved in Topics of Interest and Expertise

• Ensure Research projects have impact to the profession and a distinct cost-benefit to the SOA

• Submit ideas to be vetted by our research committees

• Impact
• Cost-Benefit
• Uniqueness
• Viability
• Quality
2020 VIRTUAL ANNUAL MEETING & EXHIBIT
Introduction to Research

Margie Rosenberg, PhD, FSA
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Society of Actuaries 2020 Annual Meeting
What is Research?

- **Research** is done by applying what is known (if anything), and building on it. (from google search with keywords "definition of research")

- **Research** is "creative and systematic work undertaken to increase the stock of knowledge" (from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Research)

- **Definition of research** (from https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/research)
  
  - 1: careful or diligent search
  
  - 2: studious inquiry or examination especially: investigation or experimentation aimed at the discovery and interpretation of facts, revision of accepted theories or laws in the light of new facts, or practical application of such new or revised theories or laws
  
  - 3: the collecting of information about a particular subject

In contrast to:

**Applied research** is the practical application of science. It accesses and uses accumulated theories, knowledge, methods, and techniques, for a specific, state-, business-, or client-driven purpose. (from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Applied_science#Applied_research)
Where to Start?

• What is the purpose of the study/project?
• Who is the audience?
Margie’s Design of the Research Cycle
Final Product (Type of Article)

• Tied to both “purpose” of the study and “who is your audience”
• Could be a standalone paper related to the study
• Could be a “literature review”
• Could be a “meta-analysis”
What is the Communication Outlet?

• Internal or external reports
• Articles in SOA newsletters
• SOA research publications
• Peer-reviewed journals
• Other?
When is it Necessary to do Literature Search?

• How else do you prove that you have “added to the literature”?
• How do you prove that you are using “state of the art” techniques?
• Depends on communication outlet
How to do a Literature Search?

• Fundamental to start of a study
• One way: Google Scholar
  • https://scholar.google.com
• Search by keyword, author
• Refine by date of publication
• Look at articles who cite current article
• Look at related articles

• Caution: Sometimes search difficult to find articles that you know exist
Suppose Look for Ian Duncan’s Articles
See Citation
See Who Cited Article
See Related Articles
In Summary (Why do research?)

• Dissemination of new ideas
• Create summary of what others have done
• Increase reputation of oneself, your organization, and the profession
DISCUSSION
DISCUSSION

• Finding a research topic.
• Research partnerships?
• Data, confidentiality and ownership.
• “Quick research.”
• Credit (not just reputation).
THANK YOU!

Interested in pursuing research?

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2020 VIRTUAL ANNUAL MEETING & EXHIBIT