

Research Methods Index (RMI)

“Transforming Research Through Insight and Alignment.”

Technology

The Research Methods Index (RMI) is an intelligent matchmaking and assessment tool designed for the academic and research sectors. It predicts an individual’s research paradigm and philosophical stance – key factors that influence how research is conceptualized, designed, and interpreted. By aligning researchers with compatible paradigms, RMI helps develop coherent and credible research methodologies. The tool is especially valuable for novice researchers, assisting them in understanding the philosophical foundations of research early in their academic careers. Institutions can also use RMI to match students with supervisors who share similar research perspectives, thereby enhancing mentorship quality, methodological rigor, and overall research excellence.

Market need

Many emerging researchers struggle to select appropriate research methodologies or to justify their methodological choices. This challenge often stems from a limited understanding of the conceptual, ontological, and epistemological foundations underlying research design. Without tools like RMI, researchers risk overlooking these critical paradigms, leading to bias, unexamined assumptions, and weakened scholarly rigor. The Research Methods Index addresses this gap by providing a structured approach to philosophical alignment and methodological decision-making, ultimately improving the depth, quality, and integrity of academic research.



Features

- Uses an automated assessment process to identify an individual’s underlying research philosophy and paradigm.
- Matches researchers’ philosophical orientations with suitable research questions, methodologies, and supervisors.
- Employs predictive analytics to streamline the decision-making process in research design.
- Simple to use, easily accessible, and adaptable across multiple disciplines.
- Can be tailored for use in diverse academic fields and institutional contexts.



Benefits

- Promotes methodological consistency and strengthens the credibility of research outputs.
- Serves as a teaching aid for lecturers, guiding students through research design and methodology selection.
- Increases understanding of epistemological and ontological foundations, encouraging deeper scholarly reflection and debate.
- Provides a structured platform for continuous learning, collaboration, and innovation in research methodology.



Industry

ICT

Potential Applications

- Integration into postgraduate research training programmes and supervisor-student matching systems.
- Screening tool to evaluate methodological coherence in funding applications.
- Supports internal R&D teams in selecting coherent research frameworks and validating study designs.
- Enhances the rigor and credibility of policy research by aligning philosophical assumptions with analytical approaches.
- Used in capacity-building workshops to strengthen understanding of research paradigms and improve project design quality.

Creator

Prof Marcia Mkansi

Stage of Development

Prototype

Intellectual Property

Copyright Protection and Pending Trademark Application

Desired Relationship

Co-development partner, Investors