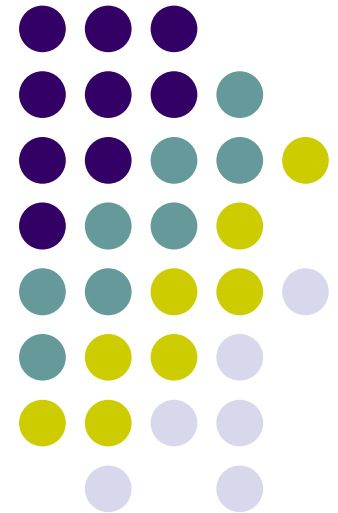
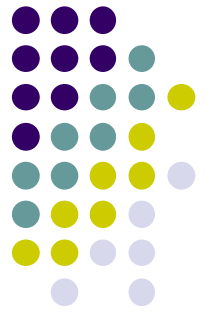


Selecting the topic you want to investigate

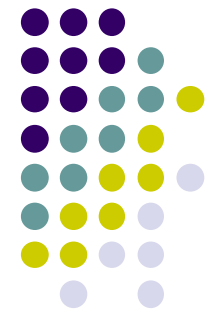


Topic



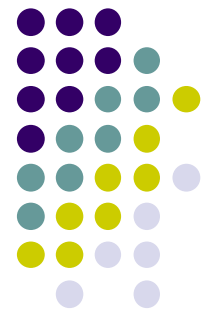
- Topic = the main element guiding the analysis of your research.
- Topics ⇒ an occasion for studying, writing, transmitting a message
- Topics = the core subject matter of academic communication

Circumstances for choosing a topic



- 1) supervisor/teacher/employer provides you with a general topic from which you study a particular related aspect
- 2) supervisor/teacher/employer provides you with a list of possible topics
- 3) supervisor/teacher/employer leaves it up to you to choose a topic = your case

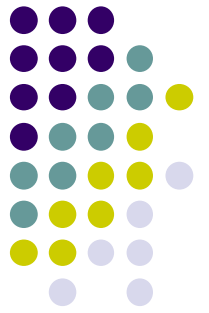
Case 1. You get a specific topic



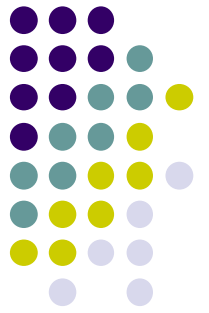
- Step 1: Identify concepts and terms

Example:

Is the social security system in the Czech Republic able to help all citizens in case of instability of living, and to prevent such instability?

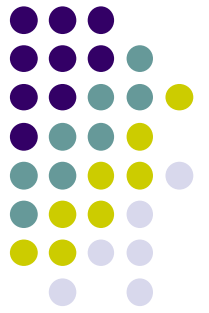


- Step 2: Review related literature to help refine how you will approach focusing on the topic (theoretical, empirical, analysis, presentation).



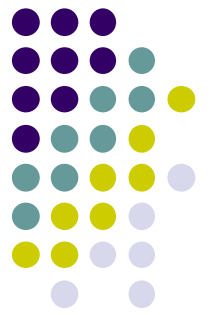
- Step 3: Look for sources that can help you enlarge, modify, or strengthen your initial knowledge, arguments.

Sources: criticizing, new ideas, context, interdisciplinary perspectives



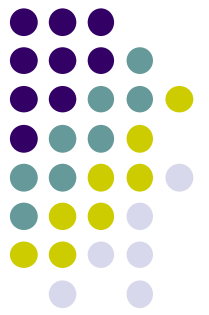
- Step 4: Prepare a detailed outline that lays the foundation for a more in-depth and focused review of relevant research literature

Case 2. You get a list of topics to choose from



- Step 1: Begin by choosing a topic that you find interesting or controversial or has some meaning for you.

After that, follow Steps 1 - 4 listed for Case 1.

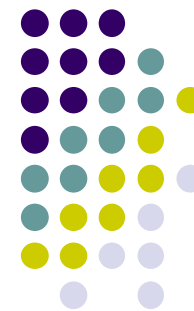


Case 3. You choose the topic

- **Step 1**: Turn an idea into a topic that can be translated into a research problem.

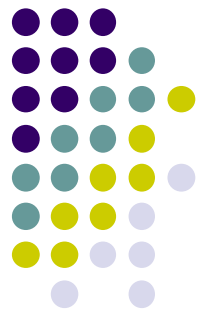
Guiding question ⇒

What do I want to know?

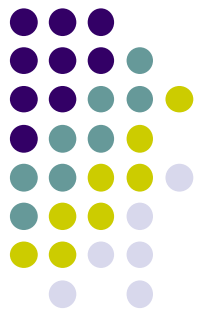


- **Step 2**: If no ideas or just need to gain focus, follow some of the strategies:
 1. Review readings
 2. Search library/internet catalogues for an appropriate, up-to dated book/s or specialized work/s related to the discipline
 3. Browse through some current journals
 4. Think about past works you have done
 5. Talk to your colleagues, supervisor, employer, family, friends

Strategies for narrowing the topic



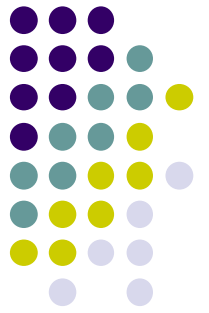
- *Aspect* ⇒ choose one perspective
- *Components* ⇒ determine if your initial variables or unit of analyses can be broken into smaller units
- *Place* ⇒ the smaller the area of analysis, the more narrow the focus
- *Relationship* ⇒ how two or more different perspectives or variables relate to one another
- *Time* ⇒ the shorter the period of observation, the more narrow the focus
- *Type* ⇒ focus your topic in terms of a specific group of people or things



Strategies for enlarging the topic

- **Who?** -- entities you want to study
- **What?** -- what are the specific issues you are examining
- **Where?** -- are there examples of other researches that could help to model your topic?
- **When?**
- **How?**
- **Why?** -- what advantages/disadvantages?

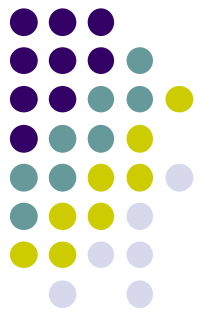
- **Your literature review can help you answer these questions or identify gaps in the literature!!!**



- Many researchers simply come up with their own research topic!!!

BUT

- No one lives in isolation! ⇒ The ideas you have are influenced by your background, culture, education, experiences, group, race.



Is the study feasible?

- **Accuracy vs. practicality**

Ideal circumstances seldom exist \Rightarrow tradeoffs

Practical considerations:

1. How long the research will take to be completed?
2. What are the ethical constraints you should consider?
3. How can you achieve the required cooperation to have a successful project?
4. **How significant are the costs of conducting the research? = No really your case, but it can play an important role**