

NONEXPERIMENTAL RESEARCH In nonexperimental quantitative research, the researcher identifies variables and may look for relationships among them but does not manipulate the variables. The researcher simply compares groups differing on the preexisting independent variable to determine any relationship to the dependent variable. Major forms of nonexperimental research are relationship studies including ex post facto and correlational research and survey research. Ex post facto research is similar to an experiment, except the researcher does not manipulate the independent variable, which has already occurred in the natural course of events. Because there is no manipulation or control of the independent variable, one must be very careful regarding the conclusions that are drawn about any observed relationship. Later, we refer to these as categorical variables. The variables in this type of research differ in kind rather than in amount.