

Dissertation methodology.

Introduction to the chapter

The subject area that this dissertation is about how forensics has developed in policing and in gaining public confidence. To help find this out some objectives were laid out, with the objectives being understanding forensics and its importance in policing, the next objective is then evaluating the reliability of forensics and why it is irreplaceable. Then the next objective is the potential issues with forensics and lastly, concluding how forensics can develop in the future.

These objectives will allow the dissertation to stay on track and find and pick the better sources to answer the title question as best as possible to allow the best quality of work that can be done.

The reasoning for undertaking this type of research is because this subject area is truly interesting to a lot of people it is often said that “Humans are natural pattern seekers.” (Progressive Counselling Services, 2025). Forensics is also a subject that is easier to find information on due to the amount of different types of sources out there from books to journals and even shows or podcasts.

Research strategy.

For the research strategy, the methods used were collecting data from using sources like online articles through an online library and through also using a survey that has been made with specific questions to collect the needed data.

The reason for choosing these methods is because it allows the exact data needed for the investigation into the subject area and it also allows to view the differing opinions and type of information are displayed through these different methods.

Using a survey as a data collection method has its many positives, first it can 'provide accesses to diverse populations' (SmartSurvey 2024) this can help with seeing if there are any differing opinions on the subject matter which can therefore help create a more diverse set of data to display. Due to the survey being online, it allows much more accesses across a greater number of people, it also makes it easier as you can get the information displayed right then and there rather than having to wait to receive a physical copy and then have to compile the findings and create a diagram of said information. Creating an online survey is also more often than not, free therefore is a cost-effective and student friendly way of creating a professional and effective information collector.

The participants that have been chosen are members of public and those who have served or are still serving in the police service. This has been done to see if there is any divide in opinions between them and the public or if they generally have the same opinions.

To do this, there will be the option that the questions will have a section for police, for example, if the question requires a multiple choice, it will be displayed as 'yes' and 'yes (Police)' or 'no' and 'No (Police)'. When it comes to questions that require the participants to write their opinion, people who serve or who have served in the police will be asked to put '(Police)' at the start of what they are going to write.

Data collection.

To analyse the findings the collected data will be looked through and displayed on a bar graph, this will be for the quantitative data as bar graphs are better at displaying numerical facts rather than written information from an article, for example. This also makes it easier for the reader to interpret the information quickly rather than trying to figure out what works where, it can also give a more professional look to the work.

For qualitative data, the main sources being used will be official government websites and articles or books from the university's online library. These sources are being used to assure that the information being

collected and used is reliable and the most up to date it can be to allow the best work possible and present the best information to the readers possible. Using these methods can also help avoid misinformation being spread.

The survey that was made will be a big part in the quantitative data collected as the results from the survey will be the information used to create the bar graph to effectively display the findings. The survey is not the only source for the quantitative data though, it will be beneficial to use other sources, too to help broaden the information found.

Because there will be such a wide range of different types of sources, it should make it easier to find the needed information needed to present in the dissertation to properly convey the right information.

Data analysis.

To prepare the collected data before analysis, many methods have been used to collect the needed data to present. One method used as mentioned before, is the survey made to collect the publics and polices' view on forensics and whether it can help with gaining public confidence. To make the survey a Forms document by made by Word will be used, this allows a cheap option as it is free therefore making it student friendly, and it is also a safer platform to use rather than some survey platforms that even though they are free, they may not be the best security-wise. The Blackstone's Handbook for Policing Students 2023 will also be used as one of the methods to collect data.

For data analysis, in order to better demonstrate the findings, a graph like a pie chart or a bar graph will be used as a visual aid in better understanding the information collected, these graphs will mostly only be made for the survey results rather than online findings. Pie charts or bar charts are a good way to display data because, 'bar graphs have been in widespread use everywhere from textbooks to newspapers, most audiences understand how to read a bar graph and can understand the information it displays' (Sciencing 2022).

It is also suggested in academic research to use bar charts because 'The visual representation of experimental results through bar graphs assist researchers in results comparison, statistical data variation analysis, and survey result illustration'. (FusionCharts 2026). This means that it makes it easier for the reader to correctly interpret the data shown.

Limitations.

Some problems found were that certain sources were not giving the answers needed which was one of the reasons why a survey was made. Some more recent sources were harder to find. To avoid this, every type of source available will be used and not just articles for example. Using every different type of source possible allows a bigger chance of finding more up to date information for the subject. The survey will also be helpful in finding the information needed that other sources may not have due to the survey being made with questions that need answering in mind.

The other limitation was trying to find more up to date books covering the exact topic needed for the research, this limits the research as it does not allow as diverse of a research pool as needed. To help avoid this, other different types of different sources will be used like journals or scientific articles covering the topic. Some older books covering the topic can also be used instead of failing to find more up to date ones.

Another limitation could be that people may not want to do the survey meaning that it could be harder to collect the needed information. To help assure that this does not become a problem, there will be many different methods to distribute the survey like sending links to others and asking them to send the same link to people they know and also printing out the link or a QR code that directs the person who scans it to the survey. These methods allow the survey to be more accessible and allows a higher chance of respondents due to the different methods of promoting the survey.

Conclusion:

The research into forensics and policing is needed because forensics and policing are very relevant in today's society and will be for many years to come, especially with how much both policing and especially forensics is developing with the ever-evolving world. This research can also help with filling in where there might be gaps in this type of subject area and will provide data that can prove useful or interesting to those reading and have a curiosity towards this type of subject.

References:

FusionCharts 2026, *Bar Graph vs Pie Chart: Which is Better*, available at:[Bar Graph vs Pie Chart: Which is Better | FusionCharts](#) accessed 27/01/2026.

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