CHECKLIST
DETERMINING WHETHER A PROPOSED RESEARCH PROJECT IS REALISTIC AND PRACTICAL

The Problem

____ 1. With what area(s) will the problem deal?
   ____ People
   ____ Things
   ____ Records
   ____ Thoughts and Ideas
   ____ Dynamics and Energy

____ 2. Are data that relate directly to the problem available for each of the categories you’ve just checked? ____ Yes ____ No

____ 3. What academic discipline is primarily concerned with the problem?
   __________________________________________________________________________

____ 4. What other academic disciplines are possibly also related to the problem?
   __________________________________________________________________________

____ 5. What special aptitude do you have as a researcher for this problem?
   ____ Interest in the problem
   ____ Experience in the problem area
   ____ Education and/or training
   ____ Other (specify):
   __________________________________________________________________________

The Data

____ 6. How available are the data to you?
   ____ Readily available
   ____ Available, with permission
   ____ Available with great difficulty or rarely available
   ____ Unavailable

____ 7. How often are you personally in contact with the source of the data?
   ____ Once a day          ____ Once a week          ____ Once a month
   ____ Once a year         ____ Never
8. Will the data arise directly out of the problem situation?
   ______ Yes  ______ No

   If your answer is “no,” where or how will you secure the data?
   ____________________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________________

9. How do you plan to gather the data?
   ______ Observation  ______ Questionnaire  ______ Tests or inventories
   ______ Photocopying of records  ______ Interview and tape recording
   ______ Other (explain): ________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________________

10. Is special equipment or are special conditions necessary for gathering or processing the data?
    ______ Yes  ______ No

    If your answer is “yes,” specify: _________________________________________
    ____________________________________________________________________
    ____________________________________________________________________

11. If you will need special equipment, do you have access to such equipment and the skill to use it?
    ______ Yes  ______ No

    If your answer is “no,” how do you intend to overcome this difficulty?
    ____________________________________________________________________
    ____________________________________________________________________

12. What is the estimated cost in time and money to gather the data?
    ____________________________________________________________________

13. What evidence do you have that the data you gather will be valid and reliable indicators of the phenomena you wish to study?
    ____________________________________________________________________
    ____________________________________________________________________
Criteria-based Evaluation

14. Does your research project meet the four criteria applicable to all research?
   - Universality   ____ Yes   ____ No
   - Replication    ____ Yes   ____ No
   - Control        ____ Yes   ____ No
   - Measurement    ____ Yes   ____ No

15. As you review your responses to this checklist, might any of the factors you’ve just considered, or perhaps and other factors, hinder a successful completion of your research project?
   ____ Yes  ____ No

If your answer is “yes,” list those factors.  ___________________________________
   _______________________________________________________________________
   _______________________________________________________________________