Interdisciplinary Research Process Reflection

When I first looked at the ten-step Interdisciplinary Research Process, I thought of it as a path that starts with a question and gradually builds toward a better understanding of that question. That is what gave me the idea for my visual. I wanted the steps to feel connected instead of looking like ten separate things that you just check off. I used that idea to organize the steps into a path with arrows showing how each part leads into the next. I also made the ending connect back around because the process can be revisited if you find new information or realize something needs to be changed.

For the visual itself, I used AI image generation to create the infographic. I gave the tool the ten steps and the general idea of making them into a clear, connected process. I chose a simple design with numbered sections, arrows, and symbols so the information would be easy to follow. I did not create the actual graphic by hand, so using AI was mainly a way to turn the idea I had into a finished visual.

The visual connects directly to all ten steps of the IRP. Step 1 defines the problem or research question. Step 2 explains why an interdisciplinary approach is needed, followed by Step 3, which identifies the relevant disciplines. Step 4 focuses on conducting the literature search, while Step 5 involves developing enough understanding of each relevant discipline to use its perspective correctly. Step 6 analyzes the problem and evaluates the disciplinary insights or theories. Step 7 identifies conflicts between those insights and their sources. Step 8 creates common ground between the different perspectives. Step 9 uses that common ground to construct a more comprehensive understanding. Finally, Step 10 calls for reflecting on, testing, and communicating that understanding (Repko & Szostak, 2021).

Overall, I wanted the visual to show that the IRP is more than a checklist. The steps build off each other and are meant to bring different perspectives together to better understand a complicated problem. The arrows and circular ending help show that the process does not always have to be completely straightforward and can be revisited when necessary.

References

Repko, A. F., & Szostak, R. (2021). *Interdisciplinary research: Process and theory* (4th ed.). SAGE Publications.