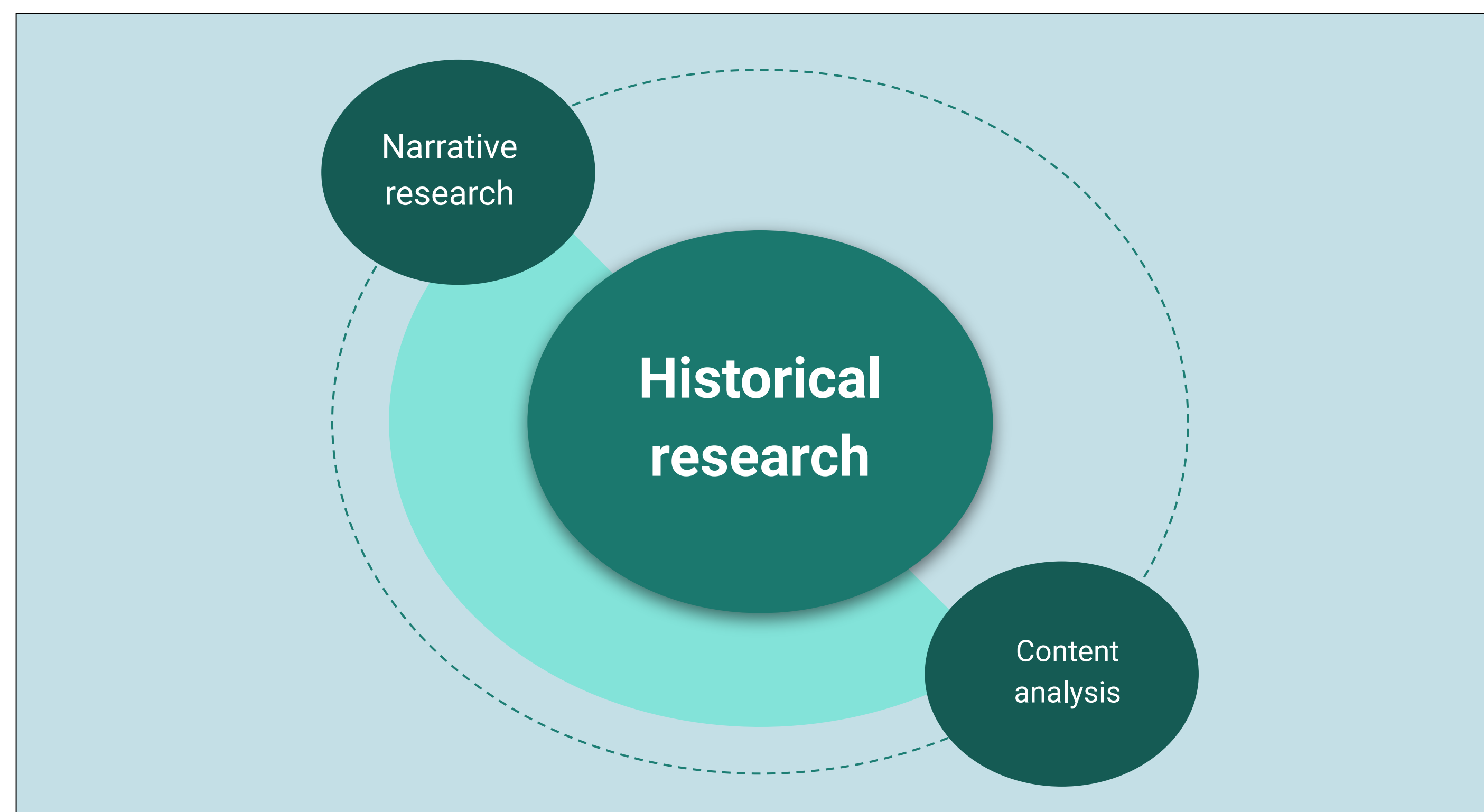


INTRODUCTION

- World War II is a highly studied field
- Queer World War II history lacks the same attention
- It is an essential piece of history
- Queer World War II history is an important building block to study when looking at both queer and military history

RESEARCH METHODOLOGIES



DATA AND FINDINGS

- Compared to other areas of WWII study, queer life during WW2 is sadly under-studied
- The army did whatever it could to eliminate any queer soldiers within its ranks
- Queer women in the army had different experiences than queer men in the army, largely due to the sexism of the time
- Despite the army's attempt to destroy any queerness within their ranks, underground queer communities flourished
- The queer communities formed in the army would often become the bedrock for queer communities formed outside the army, many of which still exist today
- There are countless queer stories that are only coming to light now

CONCLUSIONS AND ANALYSIS

Queer World War II history is rarely discussed, much less studied or taught. Despite this, it is an essential piece of history that must not be forgotten. It's a cornerstone of both military history and queer history.

By studying real stories and experiences (see fig. 1 and 2), long lost stories can finally be brought to light. Hopefully, by bringing attention to this period of history, people will be inspired to learn more about it. These stories should not be ignored. They deserve to be remembered and taught about. No period of history should be erased. History is the foundation we live on.



Figure 1: An explanation of the themes focused on throughout the research process.

IMPLICATIONS AND NEXT STEPS



Figure 2: Photos (from left to right) of Lilly Wust, Christine Jorgensen, Phyllis Abry, Gilbert Bradley, and Felice Schragenheim. They were all queer participants of World War II.

- World War II is often taught as if heroes could only look one way
- In reality, World War II was fought and won by all types of people
- Yet many heroes were erased because of their identities
- Only in the past few decades have their stories finally come to light

Next steps:

- Continuing this research
- Sharing more stories
- Putting the research together in an accessible format
- Create a lesson plan that teaches about this topic
- Educate people about this important piece of the past
- Dig deeper into government documents
- Branch out into queer life outside the army
- Look at armies from other nations

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS / REFERENCES

Special thanks to Ms. Ninel Kushchenko and Ms. McDaniel.

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