

Welcome to

Qualitative Research

Week 6

Lecture 5

Evaluating Research Articles

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Preview of Article

- Does the abstract intrigue me to read this article?
- Will it be useful to me?
- Who are the researchers?
- Are they credible and unbiased?
- What sources did the researchers use?

Major Components

- Title
- Abstract
- Introduction
- Literature Review
- Hypothesis
- Research Question
- Methodology
- Findings
- Analysis & Discussion
- Conclusion
- References

Qualitative Research

- The research is conducted in the natural setting is descriptive;
- Researcher observes a specific situation;
- Sometimes variables are manipulated, but not always
- Goal is to gain insight or identify key variables or ask new questions for further research

Structure

- Title
- Abstract
- Introduction
- Review of Literature

Research Problem

- Did the focus of the research shift?
(That's not bad)
- Was the shift justified?
- Did the researchers avoid a hypothesis at the start?
- What (if any) hypotheses were formed based on the data?

Samples

- Often purposive. The purpose should be identified.
- Accessibility is sometimes an important consideration. It should be named if it is/was a factor.
- Is there a detailed description of the sample?

Setting

- Is there a full rich description of the setting?

Researchers

- Are there biases that may interfere with the study?
- Was there interaction between the researcher and the participants? Or was the researcher only an observer?
- How were observers trained?

Data Collection

- Did the researchers use more than one way to observe the same phenomenon?
- Was there evidence of validity by triangulation?
- Was there any quantitative data? Frequency counts are common.

Procedures

Should be the strongest section.

- Are procedures fully described?
- Are they appropriate?
- Are there any ethical concerns?
- Are there any threats to validity?

Data Analysis

- Is analysis in descriptive form?
- If so, is the description supported by the evidence?
- Is there any quantitative data?
- Is data provided for reader to review?

Results

- What were the reported results?
- Did the researcher form a hypothesis?

Discussion and Conclusions

- What conclusions did the researchers reach?
- What implications can be drawn from the research?
- Are there suggestions for further research?
- What limitations were mentioned?

Now what?

You might want to....

- Use one of their suggestions for further research for your own topic
- Replicate a research study
- Cite the article in your own research
- Use the research design in your own work
- Pick up other ideas for your own research
- Read the cited articles