

Chapter 4.12 Qualitative research

Authors: Pickering CJ, Phibbs S, Kenney C, O'Sullivan T.

Further reading

1. Phillips BD. Qualitative disaster research. In Leavy P, editor. The Oxford handbook of qualitative research. Oxford: Oxford University Press; 2014.

Summary of this document: This reading provides an in-depth explanation of considerations for conducting qualitative studies.

This five-chapter book examines the use of qualitative methods for disaster research. It outlines the general areas where qualitative disaster research (QDR) is relevant followed by a brief history of qualitative disaster studies and a discussion of factors that have driven the field forward. This book reveals general approaches, specific techniques and issues associated with QDR. It demonstrates how research should be represented, including how to write up the methodology as well as the research findings, and also reviews how to appropriately evaluate published research. Throughout the book, classic case studies and new examples inform the content and provide a guide to understanding, presenting and critiquing QDR.

2. Creswell JW. Qualitative inquiry and research design: Choosing among five approaches (3rd edition). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage; 2013.

Summary of this document: This reading is for readers interested in expanding their knowledge of qualitative methods.

This 11-chapter book explores the philosophical underpinnings, history, and key elements of each of five qualitative inquiry traditions: narrative research, phenomenology, grounded theory, ethnography, and case study. The author relates research designs to each of the traditions of inquiry and compares theoretical frameworks, ways to employ standards of quality, and strategies for writing introductions to studies, collecting data, analyzing data, writing a narrative, and verifying results. This book provides an in-depth understanding of the steps in the process of research, the five qualitative approaches to inquiry, and the differences and similarities among the five approaches to inquiry.

3. Saldaña J. The coding manual for qualitative researchers (3rd edition). London: Sage Publications; 2016.

Summary of this document: This reading provides an in-depth explanation of considerations for conducting qualitative studies.

This six-chapter manual clarifies the qualitative coding process with a comprehensive assessment of different coding types, examples, and exercises. It guides readers through the multiple approaches available for coding qualitative data. A wide array of strategies, from the more straightforward to the more complex, are carefully explained and exemplified by providing a complete toolkit of codes and skills that can be applied to any research project. When presenting each code, the author

provides information about the method's origin, gives a detailed description of the method, demonstrates its practical applications, and sets out a clearly illustrated example with analytic follow-up.

4. Emmel N. Sampling and choosing cases in qualitative research: A realist approach. London: Sage Publications; 2013.

Summary of this document: This reading provides an in-depth explanation of considerations for conducting qualitative studies.

This nine-chapter textbook, organized in two parts, critically evaluates widely used sampling strategies, identifying key theoretical assumptions, and how empirical and theoretical claims are made from these diverse methods. Part One presents three cases of methodological arguments for theoretical, purposeful, and theoretical or purposive sampling, alongside examples of these methodologies of sampling in practice. In Part Two, the focus is on a realist approach to sampling in qualitative research. This book draws on international case studies from across the social sciences to show how ideas drive choices, how cases are used to work out the relation between ideas and evidence, and why it is not the size of a sample that matters, it is how cases are used to interpret and explain that counts.

5. Curtis B, Curtis C. Social research: A practical introduction. London: Sage Publications; 2011.

Summary of this document: This reading provides an introduction to social research.

This 12-chapter theoretically-informed practical guide to researching social relations provides a mixed methods approach that challenges historical divisions between quantitative and qualitative research. It adopts a multidisciplinary approach to social science research, drawing from areas such as sociology, social psychology, and social anthropology. It provides both a procedural account of social research and an understanding of the main factors that contextualize research. Throughout the twelve chapters, procedural accounts and contextual issues are applied to substantive questions and major themes including: (1) research design; (2) the practices of research and emergent researchers (beyond ontology, epistemology and methodology); (3) the impact of technology on research; and (4) putting the research approach in context.