

Meeting a Mosaic of Research Needs: Constructing a Resource Guide for Qualitative Researchers

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Project Impetus

- Increasing patron requests for librarian support about:
 - Locating qualitative studies
 - Writing and publishing qualitative research, including a list of places to publish
 - Locating campus resources that offer training, help, and support to qualitative researchers
- Poster and guide authors' prior experience with qualitative methods
- Increasing use of qualitative studies and methods in the health sciences, despite difficulty locating such studies due to:
 - Poor indexing
 - Unfamiliar and inconsistent terminology across disciplines

Collecting Resources

- Scanned selected UNC websites for qualitative-related activities
- Searched LibGuides for similar academic library guides using the terms “qualitative searching” and “qualitative research”
- Searched web for open educational resources, such as online courses or course materials
- Combed class resource lists for on- and off- campus resources
- Searched common health science databases (e.g., PubMed and CINAHL) for references on the topic
- Consulted websites from credible groups such as NIH Office of Behavioral & Social Sciences Research/OBSSR, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and NSF for specialized resources

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Initial Feedback

- Draft guide published October, 2015, with initial positive responses from users and librarians
- Sought and received feedback from on- and off-campus
 - librarians and educators supporting student and faculty researchers
 - users who had requested support for qualitative research needs
 - external experts in qualitative inquiry (who suggested additional sources and topics at our request)
- HSL Systematic Reviews LibGuide author asked to “re-use” a page from our guide
- Mixed Methods Research course for Allied Health Sciences students selected guide as course resource

Next Steps

- Increase discoverability
- Add new topics, possibly including resources for implementation studies and Community Based Participatory Research (CBPR)
- Curate pertinent audio-visual resources (i.e. video lectures)
- Periodically update searches for open educational resources, LibGuides, and other materials
- Partner with other librarians to include links to or portions of our content in pertinent other LibGuides
- Continue to promote guide on- and off-campus

<http://guides.lib.unc.edu/qual>