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

Chana Kraus-Friedberg, Ph.D., MSLS student1, 2, Barbara Rochen Renner, Ph.D.1,3

Author Affiliations: 1Health Sciences Library (HSL), University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill 2School of Library and Information Science, UNC-CH 3Department of Allied Health Sciences, School of Medicine, UNC-CH

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 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

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