Background

Impetus for this LibGuide:
- Increasing patron requests for librarian support about:
  - Locating qualitative studies
  - Writing and publishing qualitative research
  - Locating campus resources that offer training, help, and support to qualitative researchers
- The guide and poster authors’ prior experience with qualitative methods

The use of qualitative studies and methods in the health sciences is increasing, but researchers and clinicians may have difficulty finding pertinent materials:
- Qualitative studies are poorly indexed in common health science databases, such as PubMed.
- Individuals involved in the health sciences often do not have knowledge of the social science resources where information on qualitative research may be found more easily.
- Health science researchers are often unfamiliar with qualitative terminology and methodology that have developed in other fields.

Objective

To create a guide specifically for patrons in the health sciences, and the librarians who support them, that:
- Includes information (for UNC and non-UNC users) about publishing qualitative research, finding articles on qualitative studies in electronic databases, and incorporating qualitative research into systematic reviews.
- Includes information (for UNC users) about on-campus resources for those wanting to learn more about qualitative research.

Methods

Collecting Resources for the LibGuide:
- We scanned UNC websites, particularly of specific offices/departments that we knew had qualitative-related activities.
- We searched LibGuides for similar academic library guides using the terms "qualitative searching" and "qualitative research."
- We combed class resource lists and searched common health science databases, like PubMed and CINAHL, for references on the topic.

Challenges

- Determining the scope of the guide, given the variety of information needs for this topic.
- Finding materials across disciplines with differing terminologies and approaches, which change over time.
- Seeking partnerships with disciplinary practitioners and qualitative specialists. In some cases navigating term and disciplinary differences goes beyond librarian expertise.
- Formatting the guide to meet diverse information needs.
- Making the guide useful both locally (at UNC) and globally

Next Steps

- Solicit feedback from experts in qualitative methods and social sciences.
- Solicit feedback from students, staff, and faculty who have requested the guide and/or will use it.
- Consider requests for additional topics (e.g., implementation science).

Literature Cited