

Research Methods Planning

Subject Area/Study title:

--

Methodology:

Type: e.g. Qualitative, Quantitative, Mixed¹, Other

Short Description:

--

Strategy

Description: e.g. Ethnographic, Action,

--

Theoretical framework (How are the research questions framed?)/Philosophical assumptions:

Title/source/new etc.

Short Description:

--

Hypothesis :

--

Research Questions:

Key/Main Question:

--

Sub Questions:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">••••••

Methods checking:

What is the Research Question?	What information is needed to answer the question?	Who should answer the question?	Potential methods that may be used to answer this question? (How can I obtain this information? When? Where?)	Examples in the literature/practice where this method/these methods have been used to answer this kind of question?	Potential problems with using this method in my case in terms of obtaining data required?		What format will the 'results'/ data be obtained?	Does the method 'fit' the question?	Will method <i>elaborate, instigate, complement</i> or <i>contradict</i> other methods used? ⁱⁱ How can the data be validated?	How can this data be analysed?	What information will the analysed data provide for me?	Will the analysis answer my research question?
1					Practical	Philosophical						
2												
3												
4												

Useful Websites:

www.ncrm.ac.uk/publications/documents/MethodsReviewPaperNCRM-005.pdf

<http://www.sss.uq.edu.au/linkto/phdwriting/index.html>

Research methods quiz:

learningat.ke7.org.uk/socialsciences/soc-sci/psy/as/Researchmethods.htm

Trochim, William M. The Research Methods Knowledge Base, 2nd Edition. Internet WWW page, at URL: <<http://www.socialresearchmethods.net/kb/>>

MHR/April 2007

ⁱ For information on Mixed Methods see: www.ncrm.ac.uk/publications/documents/MethodsReviewPaperNCRM-005.pdf

ⁱⁱ See : www.ncrm.ac.uk/publications/documents/MethodsReviewPaperNCRM-005.pdf p12 & p25

Quality criteria for assessing mixed methods research:

- Credibility/ trustworthiness : internal validity
- Fittingness : external validity
- Auditability : reliability