Qualitative Research Methods for the Social Sciences

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Contents

Preface xi

Chapter 1

Introduction 1

Quantitative Versus Qualitative Schools of Thought
Use of Triangulation in Research Methodology 5
Qualitative Strategies: Defining an Orientation 8
From a Symbolic Interactionist Perspective 9
Why Use Qualitative Methods? 15
A Plan of Presentation 16
References 17

Chapter 2

Designing Qualitative Research 21

Theory and Concepts 21
Ideas and Theory 23
Reviewing the Literature 27
Evaluating Web Sites 29
The Two-Card Method 32
Theory, Reality, and the Social World 36
Framing Research Problems 37
Operationalization and Conceptualization 38
Designing Projects 41
Concept Mapping 42 • Creating a Concept Map 45 • Setting
and Population Appropriateness 46 • Sampling Strategies 48
Chapter 3

Ethical Issues 60

Research Ethics in Historical Perspective 61
From Guidelines to Law: Regulations on the Research Process 67
Institutional Review Boards (IRBs) 68
  IRBs and Their Duties 69 • Clarifying the Role of IRBs 72 •
  Active Versus Passive Consent 74 • Active Versus Passive
  Consent in Internet Research 76 • Membership Criteria
  for IRBs 77
Ethical Codes 78
Some Common Ethical Concerns in Behavioral Research 78
  Covert Versus Overt Researcher Roles 80
New Areas for Ethical Concern: Cyberspace 84
  Protection for Children 85 • Debriefing the Subjects 86
Informed Consent and Implied Consent 87
Confidentiality and Anonymity 90
  Keeping Identifying Records 91 • Strategies for Safeguarding
  Confidentiality 91
Securing the Data 92
Objectivity and Careful Research Design 93
Trying It Out 95
References 95

Chapter 4

A Dramaturgical Look at Interviewing 101

Dramaturgy and Interviewing 102
Types of Interviews 104
  The Standardized Interview 105 • The Unstandardized
  Interview 106 • The Semistandardized Interview 107
Chapter 5

Focus Group Interviewing 158

What are Focus Group Interviews? 158
The Moderator’s Role 159

Some Problems to Avoid in Focus Group Interviewing 160

The Evolution of Focus Group Interviews 163

Advantages and Disadvantages of Focus Group Interviewing 165 • Focus Group Interviewing and Face-to-Face Interviewing 166 • Focus Group Interviewing and Participant Observation 168 • Focus Group Interviewing and Unobtrusive Measures 169

Facilitating Focus Group Dynamics: How Focus Groups Work 172
The Moderator’s Guide 172

Introduction and Introductory Activities 173 • Statement of the Basic Rules or Guidelines for the Interview 173 • Short Question-and-Answer Discussions 174 • Special Activities or Exercises 174 • Guidance for Dealing with Sensitive Issues 175

Basic Ingredients in Focus Groups 175
Analyzing Focus Group Data 180
Confidentiality and Focus Group Interviews 181
Recent Trends in Focus Groups: Online Focus Groups 183
Conclusion 184
Trying It Out 185
Notes 185
References 186

Chapter 6

Ethnographic Field Strategies 190

Accessing a Field Setting: Getting In 194
Reflectivity and Ethnography 198
Critical Ethnography 198

The Attitude of the Ethnographer 200 • The Researcher’s Voice 200 • Gaining Entry 204

Becoming Invisible 207
Dangers of Invisibility 209
Chapter 7

Action Research 246

The Basics of Action Research 251
Identifying the Research Question(s) 253
Gathering the Information to Answer the Question(s) 254
Analyzing and Interpreting the Information 254

Sharing the Results with the Participants 256
When to Use and When Not to Use Action Research 257
The Action Researcher's Role 258
Types of Action Research 258

Technical/Scientific/Collaborative Mode 259 • A Practical/Mutual Collaborative/Deliberate Mode 259 • Emancipating or Empowering/Enhancing/Critical Science Mode 260
Photovoice and Action Research 261

The Goals in Photovoice 262
Action Research: A Reiteration 263
Trying It Out 264
References 265
Chapter 8

Unobtrusive Measures in Research 268

Archival Strategies 271
- Public Archives 271
- Private Archives: Solicited and Unsolicited Documents 282
- A Last Remark about Archival Records 286

Physical Erosion and accretion: Human Traces as Data.
Sources 287
- Erosion Measures 287
- Accretion Measures 288
- Some Final Remarks about Physical Traces 289

Trying It Out 290
References 290

Chapter 9

Historiography and Oral Traditions 296

What Is Historical Research? 296
Life Histories and Historiography 300
What Are the Sources of Data of Historical Researchers? 300
Doing Historiography: Tracing Written History as Data 301
- External Criticism 303
- Internal Criticism 307

What Are Oral Histories? 309
Trying It Out 313
References 313

Chapter 10

Case Studies 317

The Nature of Case Studies 317
Theory and Case Studies 319
The Individual Case Study 322
- The Use of Interview Data 322
- The Use of Personal Documents 324
Chapter 11

An Introduction to Content Analysis 338

What is Content Analysis? 338
Analysis of Qualitative Data 339

Interpretative Approaches 339 • Social Anthropological Approaches 339 • Collaborative Social Research Approaches 340

Content Analysis as a Technique 341
Content Analysis: Quantitative or Qualitative? 342

Manifest Versus Latent Content Analysis 343 • Blending Manifest and Latent Content Analysis Strategies 344

Communication Components 345
What to Count: Levels and Units of Analysis 346
Category Development: Building Grounded Theory 346

What to Count 348 • Combinations of Elements 349 • Units and Categories 350 • Classes and Categories 351

Discourse Analysis and Content Analysis 352
Open Coding 353
Coding Frames 356

A Few More Words on Analytic Induction 358 • Interrogative Hypothesis Testing 360

Stages in the Content Analysis Process 362
Strengths and Weaknesses of the Content Analysis Process 364
Computers and Qualitative Analysis 366
Chapter 12

Writing Research Papers: Sorting the Noodles from the Soup 378

Plagiarism: What It Is, Why It's Bad, and How to Avoid It 379

Why Plagiarism Occurs 379 • How to Avoid Plagiarism 380

Identifying the Purpose of the Writing: Arranging the Noodles 382

Delineating a Supportive Structure: Visual Signals for the Reader 383

The Title 386 • The Abstract 386 • The Introduction 387 • Literature Review 388 • Methodology 390 • Findings or Results 392 • Discussion/Conclusion 392 • References, Notes, and Appendices 393

Presenting Research Material 396

Disseminating the Research: Professional Meetings and Publications 396

A Word About the Content of Papers and Articles 400

Write It, Rewrite It, Then Write It Again! 400

A Few Writing Hints 402

A Final Note 404

Notes 405

References 406

Name Index 408

Subject Index 413
This text considers both the methodology and methods of social science research. The terms may seem to be synonyms, but methodology is broader and envelops methods. Methodology means understanding the entire research process—including its social-organizational context, philosophical assumptions, ethical principles, and the political impact of new knowledge from the research enterprise. Methods refer to the collection of specific techniques we use in a study to select cases, measure and observe social life, gather and refine data, analyze data, and report on results. The two are closely li