Mixed Methods Research

search later to gather his

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DESIGNING AND CONDUCTING MIXED METHODS RESEARCH

2NBEB1TION

Key Reference

JOHN W. CRESWELL ... KICKLL. PLANO CLARK

Mixed Methods*

- Research design with philosophical assumptions as well as methods of inquiry
 - Philosophical assumptions direct data collection and analysis and mixture of qualitative and quantitative approaches
 - Methods focus on collecting, analyzing and mixing quantitative and qualitative data in a study/series of studies

The Central Premise*

The use of quantitative and qualitative approaches in a combination provides a better understanding of research problem that either approach alone



Quantitative vs Qualitative?

Quantitative vs Qualitative?

Research process	Qualitative	Quantitative
Intent	Understanding meaning individuals given to a phenomeon inductively	Test a theory deductively to support of refute it
Literature use	Minor role; justifies the problem	Major role; justifies problem; Identifies questions/hypothesis
Intent focus	Ask open ended questions; understand the complexity of a single phenomenon	Ask close ended questions; Test specific variables that form hypothesis/questions
Data collection	Words & images; from a few participants	Numbers; from many participants

Quantitative vs Qualitative?

Research process	Qualitative	Quantitative
Data analysis	Text/image analysis; themes; larger pattern of generalizations	Numerical statistical analysis; rejecting hypothesis or determining effect sizes
Role of researcher	Identifies personal stances; report bias	Remains in background; Take steps to remove bias
Data validation	Rely on participants, researcher, reader	Rely on external standards, e.g. Judges, past research, statistics





- Determination
- Reductionism
- Empirical observation and measurements
- Theory verification



- Understanding
- Mutiple participant meanings
- Social and historical construction
- Theory generation



- Political
- Empowerment and issue oriented
- Collaborative
- Change oriented



- Consequences of action
- Problem centred
- Pluralistic
- Real-world practice oriented



Which paradigm for mixed-methods?

• Stance 1: There is one paradigm that best fit

 Stance 2: Researchers can use multiple paradigms

Stance 3: Paradigm relate to the type of mixed methods design

When to do a mixed methods?

- A need exists for both quantitative and qualitative approaches
- A need to exists to enhance the study with a second source of data
- A need exists to explain the quantitative results
- A need exists to first explore qualitatively

Mixed-Method Designs





- To obtain different but complementary data on the same topic to best understand the problem
 - Directly compare and contrast
 - Validate
 - Expand



- One data set provides a secondary, supportive role in a study based primarily on the other data type
- Not to converge two data sets to answer the same question



- Two-phase design
- Qualitative data helps explain or build upon quantitative results
 - Quan -> Qual



- Two-phase design
- Qualitative method inform quantitative method
 - Qual -> Quan

Choosing Mixed-methods design

Decisions	Triangulation	Embedded	Explanatory	Exploratory
Timing	Concurrent	Concurrent or sequential	Sequential: Quan -> Qual	Sequential: Qual -> Quan
Weighting	Equal	Unequal	Quan	Qual
Mixing	Merge data during interpretation & analysis	Embed one data type within a larger design using other data type	Connect data between two phases	Connect data between two phases

Introducing design into problem statement

Deficiencies	Design	Reason
One form of data is insufficient by itself	Triangulation	To bring together the strengths of quan & qual research; to compare results; to validate, confirm or corroborate results
A second form of data is needed to enhance the study	Embedded	There are different questions requiring different data
Quantitative results are inadequate	Explanatory	Qualitative data needed to help explain/build on quantitative data
Qualitative results are inadequate	Exploratory	Qualitative data is only an initial exploration to identify variables. Constructs, taxonomies or instruments

Mixed method purpose statement

- Include overall content aim in the first sentence
- Identify and briefly define the mixed method design
- Designate the forms of data collection
- Mention the research site
- State the reasons for collecting both data type

Mixed methods research questions?

Design	Examples of research questions
Triangulation	To what extent do the quantitative and qualitative data converge? How and why?
Embedded	What additional information is obtained during the study from the qualitative data?
Explanatory	In what ways do the qualitative data help to explain the quantitative results?
Exploratory	What items and scales represents the qualitative results?

Mixed-methods analysis

Concurrent	Sequential
Stage 1: separate initial data anlysis	Stage 1: analyze first dataset
 Stage 2: merging data sets Data transformation Matrix Discussion 	 Stage 2: decide which information is most useful for stage 3 Quan: outliers; extreme cases; significant-nonsignificant; comparisons; demographics Qual: codes and themes; significant statements; models
	Stage 3: Collection and analysis of second dataset

Validity in mixed-methods

 Report and discuss validity within the context of both quantitative and qualitative

Discuss validity from the standpoint of the mixed-methods design

• Discuss potential threats to validity that arise during data collection and analysis