

UNIT 8: Research Project

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WEEK SEVEN
LECTURER: N. QUARRIE

Learning Outcome One (1)

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- LO2 Be able to implement the research project within agreed procedures and to specification

Objective of Lesson

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- By the end of this lesson you should be able to:
- 2.3 record and collate relevant data where appropriate



Overview

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- Deciding on the method to use to collect data is one thing but recording the data collected using the selected method is another thing.
- One of the challenges faced by students when it is time to complete the discussion section of a research paper is that they have limited information because they did not record the data or did not record it correctly. This lesson is therefore very important in assisting you in understanding how to record collected.

How to record observation data

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- The recording of information gathered through the use of observation can be documented different ways. The two main ways of documenting observation data:
- Note-taking and behavioral coding
- Note-taking: This involves writing down all that you observe as you watch the persons of interest. You must write exactly what you see.

How to record observation data

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- Behavioral coding: “behavioral coding — is a way of doing rudimentary analysis as you observe. You assign a predetermined code to each observation. For example, if the observation relates to using support, you might classify this with the code “H” for Help. And if the user complains about the system, you might code this with “N” for Negative Comment. This approach allows you to filter observations by behavior in your analysis within a spreadsheet. (Blogger and Blogger, 2015)”

How to record interview data

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- It is very important to accurately record information collected during an interview. “In-Depth Interviews include both individual interviews (e.g., one-on-one) as well as “group” interviews (including focus groups). The data can be recorded in a wide variety of ways including stenography, audio recording, video recording or written notes. (Socialresearchmethods.net, n.d.)”

How to record questionnaire data

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- The recording of the information gathered from questionnaires are sometimes inputted into software programmes before processing the information.
- Some of the software programmes used are Eviews, SPSS (). Data is usually coded before inputting the information into the software
- Note that these programmes are mainly used if you issued a large number of questionnaires.

How to record questionnaire data

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- Given that most of you will not be using a software to record and process data I suggest that you do the following when recording data from your questionnaires:
- Compare the response to each question
- Use a table to record the number of persons/percentage of persons who chose a particular answer

Question 1: Age	
10-15	5 (25%)
16-20	6 (30%)
21-25	4 (20%)

How to record data from books etc

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- When recording data from books, internet etc, it is also very important for you to note the name of the author and any other details that you may need to write the bibliography.
- Always note the page number for an aspect of a book that you are interested in using in your research

Note

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- Note also that recording and collating data may also include the interpreting transcripts; coding techniques; specialist software; statistical tables; comparison of variable; trends; forecasting.
- It is therefore important that you carefully record and collate your data so as to reduce the analysis of incorrect data.

Review Questions

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1. Paloma is now ready to record data that she collected for her research. Explain how she should go about recording data that she collected using:
 - Questionnaires
 - Interviews
1. Explain the importance of recording data during interviews etc?
2. If you were asked to record data during an observation, what would you do? Thoroughly explain

References/Additional Readings

- Blogger, G. and Blogger, G. (2015). *How to record qualitative observations - Optimal Workshop*. [online] Optimal Workshop. Available at: <https://www.optimalworkshop.com/blog/how-to-record-and-analyze-user-research-observations/> [Accessed 16 Jun. 2016].
- Socialresearchmethods.net. (n.d.). *Qualitative Data*. [online] Available at: <http://www.socialresearchmethods.net/kb/qualdata.php> [Accessed 17 Jun. 2016].