

e-Portfolio Activity: Research Proposal Review

1. Which of the methods described in this week's reading would you think would suit your purpose?

According to Fleetwood (2018), qualitative and quantitative research methods are distinct approaches to understanding and analysing data. Qualitative methods, such as interviews, focus groups, ethnographic studies, text analysis, and case studies, use non-numerical, open-ended questions to understand participants' thoughts. Quantitative methods use measurable forms, such as surveys and descriptive and correlational research.

I have chosen the quantitative research method because it yields robust and reliable results. This method's emphasis on measurable data and statistical analysis provides a solid foundation for my independent research.

2. Which data collection methods would you consider using?

Data collection is a crucial stage in research, as it helps obtain accurate results and reduce potential errors (Taherdoost, 2021). Qualitative methods, which address the "what" question type, are cheaper and employ structured data collection methods. Primary data, which is first-hand information, is essential for reliable results and can be obtained from experiments, surveys, interviews, and questionnaires. Secondary data gathered from published sources is also necessary for research purposes but may not be reliable or accurate. Secondary data sources include records, books, research articles, and internet articles. Still, they may not be suitable for different situations or due to environmental factors or copyright issues, as per Taherdoost's (2021) explanation.

Given that I am using the quantitative method for my research, I have opted for Secondary data sources, including records, books, research articles, and internet articles, as my data collection methods.

3. Which required skills will you need to have or develop for the chosen project?

Data analysis is a crucial process in research projects, influenced by the research design and purpose. It involves collecting, organising, and interpreting data to gain understanding. Choosing the correct statistical method should be considered at the early stages of the study. Tips for working with statistical data include planning, reducing uncertainties, considering logistics, ensuring accuracy, and dealing with missing values. Start by examining each variable separately, looking for patterns of missingness, and being vigilant. Generating realistic data and avoiding fraud detection methods is essential (Croft, 2023).

I must develop research, data collection, analysis, and critical thinking skills to conduct a research project, as Chukwuere (2024) highlights. This will involve developing research literature search and evaluation skills, conducting surveys, interviews, or focus groups, and analysing quantitative and qualitative data.

References:

Chukwuere, J. (2024). *Critical Research Thinking: A Recipe for Academic Writing Success and Publications*. Available from: https://www.researchgate.net/publication/378510880_Critical_research_thinking_A_recipe_for_academic_writing_success_and_publications [Accessed 18 May 2024].

Fleetwood, D. (2018). *What is Research- Definition, Types, Methods & Examples*. [online] QuestionPro. Available from: <https://www.questionpro.com/blog/what-is-research/> [Accessed 18 May 2024].

Taherdoost, H. (2021). Data Collection Methods and Tools for Research; A Step-by-Step Guide to Choose Data Collection Technique for Academic and Business Research Projects. *International Journal of Academic Research in Management (IJARM)*, [online] 10(1), pp.10–38. Available from: <https://hal.science/hal-03741847/document> [Accessed 18 May 2024].

Croft, K. (2023). *The Library: Research Skills: Analysing and Presenting Data*. [online] libguides.leedsbeckett.ac.uk. Available from: <https://libguides.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/skills-for-learning/research-skills/analysing-and-presenting-data> [Accessed 18 May 2024].