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Assignment 1
EDRM 605

Philosophy of Science

Qualitative research approaches the task of research with a unique philosophical foundation. Traditional quantitative researchers believe that what is real is what can be measured. However qualitative researches have a view of multiple realities, or in terms more acceptable for Christians, multiple perspectives. The goal, then, of qualitative research, is to understand the multiple perspectives of the participants in the research.

The qualitative researcher believes the best way to really know and understand (epistemology) is to be as close to the natural setting and experience of the research participants as possible. Qualitative research understands that research is value laden and seeks to acknowledge and identify the biases and values of the researcher and the participants. Researchers using the qualitative research methodology will write their reports in a literary style with thick descriptions of the findings and observations. Finally, qualitative researchers believe the process of research is inductive, and so the design emerges as the data is reviewed and analyzed in detail.

Qualitative Inquiry Supportive Arguments **Shared Qualitatively**

1. Qualitative inquiry is the logical method to use when one wants to tell the stories of the research participants: those whose voices are silenced, marginalized, or unheard.



Figure 1. Students enjoy a war veteran's scrapbook. Photo from Microsoft ClipArt Online.

2. Qualitative inquiry is the logical method to use when a topic is to be explored and understood from multiple perspectives.



Figure 2. <http://www.flickr.com/photos/imdreaminggreen/32791744/>

3. Qualitative inquiry is an essential tool when attempting to make sense or interpret others' meanings.



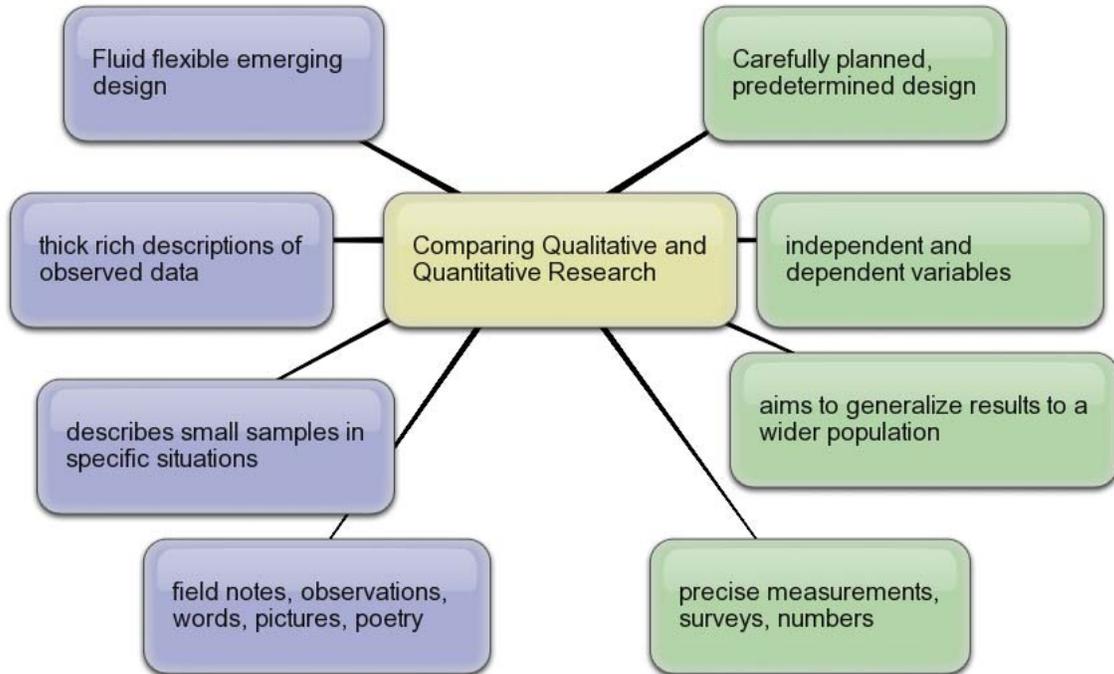
Figure 3. <http://www.travelblog.org/Africa/Sudan/Khartoum/blog-224111.html>

4. Qualitative inquiry is useful when attempting to break past power barriers and unshackle people from oppressive or alienating situations.



Figure 4. <http://www.onlinelegaltips.com/immigration/index.html>

Methodological Differences **Shared Qualitatively**



Topic for my study

I will not be using qualitative research for my dissertation, but I want to do my class project on something related to my work. I coordinate videoconferencing for 18 school districts in Berrien and Cass counties. We use videoconferencing to connect students to peers around the world, and to experts, authors, and scientists in various organizations.

My possible ideas for my qualitative research project for this class include:

1. I did some little surveys to see why my top teachers using videoconferencing keep using it. But, those are surveys so probably not good.
2. I have a recorded video taped interview with some of my videoconference coordinators discussing open ended questions about supporting videoconferencing in their school. I would explore the issues and challenges they face.
3. I have several recorded videoconferences available that I could analyze and look for themes of content and/or teaching strategies used and/or types of interaction between the two classes and/or the class and the remote expert. I could analyze one maybe.
4. I could look at the titles and descriptions of the videoconference sessions one or more schools participated in this year to look for patterns or themes.
5. I have been requiring students to create collaborative project lesson plans using videoconferencing and I could do an analysis of the content and themes in those. One of the studies I'm using in my lit review did something like that.
6. I'm co-teaching a collaborative workshop the week of July 28 that includes videoconferencing with 3-5 groups of teachers across the United States. I could observe and record the interactions in a section that I'm not responsible for teaching. And/or I could interview a participant or two or my co-facilitators, especially the ones who are new to the workshop.

Which of these sound interesting or appropriate (in length and experience) for this class?

I also don't want a DG so I want to get it done!!