Resources for AOE Students in SWK 302

at the Lightner Library

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Types of Research

Contained in Scholarly Journals
Quantitative vs. Qualitative Research

Quantitative Research
Sets out to test a hypothesis, look at cause and effect, and make predictions.

Collects objective, quantitative data (numbers & statistics) based on precise measurements using structured & validated data-collection instruments.

Qualitative Research
Sets out to understand and interpret social interactions or other factors which cannot be measured with objective data.

Collects subjective, qualitative data (words, images, or objects) such as open-ended responses, interviews, participant observations, field notes, or reflections.
Primary vs. Secondary Research

Primary Research
A research study where data is collected by the investigators conducting the research. This can include carrying out a survey, coding specific behavior or doing an experiment.

Examples of Primary Research

Randomized Controlled Trial
Randomized controlled trials are carefully planned experiments that introduce an intervention to study its effect on real people. They include methodologies that reduce the potential for bias (randomization and blinding) and that allow for comparison between intervention groups and control (no intervention) groups.

Cohort Study
Cohort Studies are observational studies which identify a group of people who are already following a program or intervention, follow them forward over time, and then compare their outcomes with a similar group that is not following that program or intervention.

Case Study
Case studies report on the experiences of an individual person or a small group of people. Because they are reports of cases and use no control groups to compare outcomes, they have little statistical validity.

Source: http://guides.lib.umich.edu/c.php?g=283002&p=1885609

Looking for something specific? Try using these as search terms.
Secondary Research
A research study based on data which other investigators have collected.
Secondary research is much less expensive and time consuming than primary research. Much of social science research relies on secondary data gathered and compiled by others.

Examples of Secondary Research

**Literature Review**
Qualitatively summarizes evidence on a topic using informal or subjective methods to collect and interpret studies. Good for providing historical background or an overview of a topic.

**Systematic Review**
Quantitatively provides a high-level overview of primary research on a focused question. Methodically identifies, selects, synthesizes, and appraises all high quality research evidence relevant to that question.

**Meta Analysis**
Quantitatively summarizes evidence on a topic by combining the results and conclusions of multiple primary studies in order to evaluate the effectiveness of an intervention.

**Meta Synthesis**
Summarizes qualitative evidence in order to formulate a new theory or a new direction for research.
Best Bet Databases for Social Work

Reference Databases
- CQ Researcher
- Gale Virtual Reference Library
- Opposing Viewpoints in Context

Article Databases
- EBSCOhost Databases
  - Academic Search Premier
  - PsycARTICLES
  - SocINDEX

Other Databases
- Diversity Studies Collection
- Gender Studies Collection
- Nexis Uni
- Proquest
Topic as a sentence/question:
What are some of the best ways to prevent elder abuse?

Keywords:
Prevent, Elder, Abuse

Synonyms or related terms:
- Prevent: Intervention, Protection, Risk Factors
- Abuse: Neglect, Violence, Maltreatment
- Elder: Older, Senior Citizen, Aged, Geriatric
Search Term Tips & Tricks

- Acts as a wildcard (any number of letters can go here)

“” - Makes those words show up together in that order in your results
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How do we find journal articles?

Especially those peer-reviewed articles!

Library Website has 3 ways:

- **Databases by Subject** – good for beginners
- **Find an Article** – quick links to databases
- **Find a Journal Title** – you already know the journal title and/or are trying to find a specific article you know exists
Find a Journal Title

Find a Journal Title – you already know the journal title and/or are trying to find a specific article you know exists.

Identify the journal title (usually capitalized and italicized)


Help!! I need help!!

- Library Guides made by KC Librarians
  - Help you get started with research
  - General “How-To”s
  - Video Tutorials, Links, Information
  - Guides made just for you!
    - Information Resources for AOE Students
Help!! I need help!!

- Citation & Formatting Help
  - Library Website – Links on the right
  - Email me for an APA check (allow 24 hours)
  - Email the Writing Center for a thorough check (allow 48 hours): asapwritinghelp@keuka.edu
Help!! I need help!!

- Contact Us!!
  - Chat window
  - Ask a Librarian
  - Phone: Reference & Circulation Desks
  - Email me: ahiggins@keuka.edu