

CONTENTS

List of figures	xii	Situations in which the approach can be used	32
List of tables	xv	Paradigms of research	33
Guided tour	xvi	Summary	34
Acknowledgements	xviii		
Preface	xix		
1 Research: a way of thinking	1	2 The research process: a quick glance	39
Research: a way of thinking	4	The research process: an eight-step model	42
Research: an integral part of your professional practice	4	A: Deciding what to research	46
Research: a way to gather evidence for your practice	7	Step one: Formulating a research problem	46
Evidence-based practice	8	B: Planning how to conduct the study	46
Applications of research in practice development and policy formulation	8	Step two: Conceptualising a research design	46
Research: what does it mean?	9	Step three: Constructing an instrument for data collection	47
The research process: its characteristics and requirements	12	Step four: Selecting a sample	48
Types of research	13	Step five: Writing a research proposal	48
Application perspective	13	C: Conducting a research study	49
Objectives perspective	15	Step six: Collecting data	49
Mode of enquiry perspective	16	Step seven: Processing and displaying data	49
Important note to readers	19	Step eight: Writing a research report	49
The mixed/multiple methods approach	21	Summary	50
Introduction	21		
Defining the approach	21	STEP ONE: FORMULATING A RESEARCH PROBLEM	53
Rationale underpinning the approach	27	3 Reviewing the literature	55
When to use the approach	27	The place of the literature review in research	58
Ways of mixing methods	29	Bringing clarity and focus to your research problem	58
Advantages and disadvantages	30	Improving your research methodology	59
Considerations to be kept in mind	32	Broadening your knowledge base in your research area	59
		Contextualising your findings	60

Difference between a literature review and a summary of the literature	60	6 Constructing hypotheses	127
How to review the literature	60	The definition of a hypothesis	130
Searching for the existing literature	61	The functions of a hypothesis	131
Reviewing the selected literature	65	The testing of a hypothesis	132
Developing a theoretical framework	66	The characteristics of a hypothesis	133
Developing a conceptual framework	67	Types of hypothesis	133
Writing about the literature reviewed	68	Errors in testing a hypothesis	137
Summary	71	Hypotheses in qualitative research	137
4 Formulating a research problem	77	Summary	138
The research problem	80	Developing a research project: a set of exercises for beginners	142
The importance of formulating a research problem	80	Exercise I: Formulation of a research problem	142
Sources of research problems	81	STEP TWO: CONCEPTUALISING A RESEARCH DESIGN	149
Considerations in selecting a research problem	83	7 The research design	151
Steps in formulating a research problem	84	What is a research design?	154
The formulation of research objectives	91	The functions of a research design	155
The study population	92	The theory of causality and the research design	155
Establishing operational definitions	92	Summary	162
Formulating a research problem in qualitative research	94	8 Selecting a study design	167
Summary	95	Differences between quantitative and qualitative study designs	170
5 Identifying variables	101	Study designs in quantitative research	171
What is a variable?	104	Study designs based on the number of contacts	172
The difference between a concept and a variable	105	Study designs based on the reference period	177
Converting concepts into variables	106	Study designs based on the nature of the investigation	180
Types of variable	107	Other designs commonly used in quantitative research	191
From the viewpoint of causal relationship	107	Study designs in qualitative research	195
From the viewpoint of the study design	114	Case study	196
From the viewpoint of the unit of measurement	115	Oral history	197
Types of measurement scale	116	Focus groups/group interviews	197
The nominal or classificatory scale	117	Participant observation	198
The ordinal or ranking scale	119	Holistic research	198
The interval scale	119		
The ratio scale	120		
Summary	120		

The concept of sampling	291
Sampling terminology	292
Principles of sampling	293
Factors affecting the inferences drawn from a sample	295
Aims in selecting a sample	296
Types of sampling	296
The calculation of sample size	310
Sampling in qualitative research	311
The concept of saturation point in qualitative research	312
Summary	312
Exercising IV: Selecting a sample	317

STEP FIVE: WRITING A RESEARCH PROPOSAL 319

13 Writing a research proposal	321
The research proposal in quantitative and qualitative research	324
Contents of a research proposal	325
Preamble/introduction	326
The research problem	329
Objectives of the study	330
Hypotheses to be tested	332
Study design	333
The setting	335
Measurement procedures	336
Ethical issues	336
Sampling	336
Analysis of data	337
Structure of the report	340
Problems and limitations	342
Appendix	342
Work schedule	342
Budget	342
Summary	343
Exercise V: Writing a research proposal	348

STEP SIX: COLLECTING DATA 351

14 Considering ethical issues in data collection	356
Ethics: the concept	356
Stakeholders in research	357
Ethical issues to consider concerning research participants	358
Collecting information	358
Seeking informed consent	358
Providing incentives	359
Seeking sensitive information	359
The possibility of causing harm to participants	359
Maintaining confidentiality	360
Ethical issues to consider relating to the researcher	360
Avoiding bias	360
Provision or deprivation of a treatment	360
Using inappropriate research methodology	361
Incorrect reporting	361
Inappropriate use of information	361
Ethical issues regarding the sponsoring organisation	362
Restrictions imposed by the sponsoring organisation	362
The misuse of information	362
Ethical issues in collecting data from secondary data	362
Summary	363
Exercise VI: Data collection (ethical issues in data collection)	367

STEP SEVEN: PROCESSING AND DISPLAYING DATA 371

15 Processing data	373
Data processing in quantitative studies	376
Editing	376
Coding	378
Developing a frame of analysis	394
Analysing quantitative data manually	400
Data processing in qualitative studies	402

Content analysis in qualitative research - an example	403	STEP EIGHT: WRITING A RESEARCH REPORT	451
Data analysis in mixed methods studies	413		
The role of statistics and computers in research	413	17 Writing a research report	453
Summary	414	Writing a research report	456
16 Displaying data	419	Developing a draft outline	457
Methods of communicating and displaying		Writing about variables	461
analysed data	422	Referencing	463
Text	422	Writing a bibliography	463
Tables	423	Summary	463
Graphs	428	Exercise VIII: Report writing	467
Statistical measures	442		
Summary	442	Glossary	471
Exercise VII: Processing and displaying data	446	Bibliography	490
		Index	495