Top 10 Tips for New Researchers

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Session Goals

After this session, participants will be able to:

• Identify why qualitative research is not a linear process – on paper or in reality.

• Understand the concept of cycles of deliberation - iterative, cyclical, deliberative discourse in qualitative research.

• Identify practical tips to implement prior to, or during research processes.
Pickles
Test

What associations – links – or stories can you make with these cards?
What mistakes did Bear make in learning to use a treadmill for the first time?
Cycles of Discursive Deliberation

- Visit & revisit the same substance, discourses, ideas again & again in different ways with more profound levels of deliberations & understanding.

- Continual interplay between personal knowledge grounded in experience, formal bodies of knowledge, data/information you are generating in your project.

- Iterative cycles involve interplay between private ruminations and thinking aloud with others.

- Cycling between preparation of written documents and informational and formal reviews of those documents.

- Each layer is an evolution in your clearer conceptual connections among key facets of your inquiry.
Cycles of Deliberation
(Piantanida & Garman (2009))

• Facing the research
• Moving into the research
• Crafting the research proposal
• Proposing the study
• Living with the study
• Entering into public discourses
• Adjusting to life afterwards
Common Errors

• Not realising the messiness & evolving nature of qualitative research
• Balancing depth with scope of data: Amassing data
• Dealing with being overwhelmed - how to be thorough without being overwhelmed?
• Moments of brain sizzle & sense of doing everything wrong
• Relating analysis, theoretical frame & research questions
• Software- doing the thinking for you
• Descriptive versus theoretical coding that will get help you answer your research purpose
• Not talking or sharing ideas
• Not writing until you “get it right”
• Question own assumptions? You do not know what you do not know
• Tracking great ideas – but not losing main focus of your work
• Lack of memos & tracking of ideas
• Failing to note why & where something is interesting- or uninteresting
• Questioning own assumptions
Tip #1

Qualitative Research is a craft

Practice with a Mentor:
• RA work
• Volunteer work
• Work with peers

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JYAgFY8Gfq4
Tip #2

Calling out for help

• Balance between finding your own way & calling out for help.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VrSUe_m19FY
Tip #3

Learning Software - BEFORE YOU NEED IT

Analyzing qualitative data

How do I summarize and make sense of all these words?

Tip #4

Software -
Learn it BEFORE you need it.

https://www.slideshare.net/hashimabbasi786/chapter08-48560557
Tip #5

Differentiate the type of coding you are doing

- Descriptive
- Topical
- Analytic
- Largely useless. e.g. Emotions
Tip #6

Think first, computer code second
Tip #7

Talk about your ideas and analysis
Tip #8

Start writing much earlier than you think

"The scariest moment is always just before you start." - Stephen King
Tip #9

Treat all work as a draft
Trepidation about feedback
Tip #9

Treat all work as a draft

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kx2ag0S5Zu0
NEW NOVEL, SHINY, SHINY, SHINY!

I AM DONE, I'M DONE, OMG, I AM DONE.

SO HELP ME GOD.

DIE, BOOK, DIE!

ACTUALLY, YOU KNOW IT'S NOT TOO AWFUL BAD...

JUST GET TO THE END.
JUST GET TO THE END.

IT'S THE WORST THING I'VE EVER WRITTEN.WHY WON'T IT JUST DIE AND ROT IN THE GUTTER IN HELL?

UGH

I NEED TO REWRITE THE BEGINNING FOR THE 15TH TIME.

WHAT EXACTLY HAPPENS NEXT?

MAYBE THIS IDEA ISN'T AS GOOD AS I THOUGHT.

THIS IDEA SUCKS.

OH GOD. I HATE IT, I'M STUCK, I SHOULDN'T HAVE WRITTEN THIS IN THE FIRST PLACE.

I WON'T MAKE THE DEADLINE.
CLEARLY, THIS WAS A TERRIBLE MISTAKE.

MAYBE THIS WASN'T SO BAD.

I COULD WORK WITH THAT.
Tip #10

Self awareness

There are things known and there are things unknown, and in between are the doors of perception...
~Aldous Huxley~
Summary

Top 10 tips

• Qualitative Research is a craft
• Calling out for help
• Learning software- before you need it
• Differentiate the type of coding you are doing
• Think first, computer code second
• Talk about your ideas and analysis
• Start writing much earlier than you think
• Treat all work as a draft
• Self awareness
• (Plus another 1228 tips should you have the time)
Useful resources


**The Qualitative Report Guide to Qualitative Research Websites:** Curated by Dr. R.J. Chenail: This is a resource site for online communities, research centers, learning resources and qualitative researchers. 
https://tqr.nova.edu/websites/
THANK YOU!
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