JMU Libraries, Information Literacy Exercise for Social Work Research Methods (SOWK 305), Learning Outcome 18: Characteristics of Longitudinal Research

INB: This exercise was created for use in the University of Arizona’s, Guide on the Side tutorial platform hosted here as of August 2018: https://ualibraries.github.io/Guide-on-the-Side/about.html This tool renders tutorial content with digital objects in the same browser window. Most of the below text was rendered in a panel on the left side of the browser screen, while the asset being reviewed or analyzed (e.g. a video, website, or journal article) was rendered in a panel on the right side of the browser. I used multiple-choice, true/false, and short answer questions in these tutorials. In cases where I used multiple choice questions, I took advantage of the tool’s feature that displays text responses when each multiple-choice statement is selected. Because I made most of these statements formative, I included each within multiple-choice option lists. Links to assets the questions referred to are also included in the text below. Note that Guide on the Side can be used as a quiz tool, in which case, the responses/prompts to the multiple-choice questions are hidden. The exercises/outcomes numbered from 17 to 20 are designed to be administered to different student groups in the same class period, followed by group reports on their assigned type of research/article. If there are mistakes in this material, they are mine alone, not those of my colleagues in the JMU Social Work Department or JMU Libraries. David Vess vessds@jmu.edu

Open JMU Libraries website.

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- Can you see a website to the right?
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Can you see a website to the right?

Before we get started, look to the right. Is there a blank white space or do you see a website? If you see white space, look for a notification about blocking or loading scripts. The below are examples of what you may see in different browsers.
Once you locate this feature, remove the block and load all scripts so you can see the webpages in the right-hand frame. Now, by clicking on the right arrow below, you will advance in this tutorial. Go ahead and click on the arrow now. If you have any problems, contact me at vessds@jmu.edu.
What's the Learning Outcome?

Recall when I mentioned learning outcomes before? Each exercise I've given you has an outcome. It's a kind of contract I have with you stating, "This is what you will get out of this experience."

The outcome for this exercise is:

After this exercise, students will be able to identify the characteristics of longitudinal studies (research and articles).

What are Journals?

We'll begin by viewing this page. You will use it to help you answer the questions in this section. (If the page won't open, try right clicking the link and opening it in another tab.) Researchers communicate their work in articles published in journals like the one displayed to the right.

[Panel in Guide on the Side would display this: https://link.springer.com/journal/10964 ]

1. What is the title of the journal shown to the right?

- Youth and Adolescence
  - Feedback for choosing this answer: Incorrect. Try again.
- Journal of Youth and Adolescence
  - Feedback for choosing this answer: Correct. Journal of Youth and Adolescence.
- Springer Link
  - Feedback for choosing this answer: Incorrect. That’s the name of the publishing company, try again.
- None of the above
  - Feedback for choosing this answer: Incorrect. Try again.
There are tens-of-thousands of journals covering many fields of study. Some journals focus specifically on social work practices while others have a wider appeal to many kinds of health and behavioral studies professionals. Find and click on the "About the Journal" link and read the description of the journal.

2. What is the best way to find out more information about this journal?

- Read articles published in the journal.
  - Feedback for choosing this answer: Incorrect. You can learn a lot about a particular journal by skimming the abstracts of articles published in the latest issue, but that wouldn't be very efficient.

- Google the name of the journal in quotes.
  - Feedback for choosing this answer: Incorrect. This strategy will often work to get you to the kind of page you're already on. Since you're already on the journal's website, where do you click to learn more about the journal?

- Click on "About this Journal" link
  - Feedback for choosing this answer: Correct. Websites for journals will often display descriptive information on the main page. Other times, you might have to click on a link to learn if a journal is appropriate for your information need. In this case it's "About this Journal." On other journal websites you might see links such as: About, Purpose, or Background.

- None of the above
  - Feedback for choosing this answer: Incorrect. One of the above options is the best answer.

3. This journal is peer reviewed.

- True
  - Feedback for choosing this answer: Incorrect.

- False
  - Feedback for choosing this answer: Incorrect.

- It is unclear
  - Feedback for choosing this answer: The website about the journal does not make this entirely clear, however their expressed interest in empirical research, and large review board, suggest this is likely a peer-reviewed journal. When in doubt, you can always look such information about a journal in something called Ulrich's Periodical Directory via the library website.
4. Why should you care if an article underwent peer review?

   It assures you that an article has some level of quality and credibility.
   o Feedback for choosing this answer: This is true but, there's a better answer in your list of options.
   It assures you that experts in the particular field the journal covers has approved the research for publication.
   o Feedback for choosing this answer: This is true but, there's a better answer in your list of options.
   It assures you that the article in question contributes in some way to the scholarly conversation in a given field.
   o Feedback for choosing this answer: This is true but, there’s a better answer in your list of options.
   All the above.
   o Feedback for choosing this answer: Peer review attempts to assure the usefulness, quality and credibility of research by allowing a group of experts in a given field to evaluate the work and either deny or approve its' publication in a given journal.

Types of Articles

As you've learned in class, researchers share their findings in articles published in journals. Researchers use many kinds of methods to answer their research questions. The methods researchers use to answer their questions describe the kind of article(s) they produce.

A few types of research articles are:

- Qualitative
- Quantitative
- Review
- Meta-analysis
- Mixed-methods
- Secondary analysis
- Longitudinal
Watch this video about quantitative longitudinal research. (If the page won't open, try right clicking the link and opening it in another tab.) [http://dx.doi.org/10.4135/9781473968608](http://dx.doi.org/10.4135/9781473968608)

Watch this video about qualitative longitudinal research. (If the page won't open, try right clicking the link and opening it in another tab.) [http://dx.doi.org/10.4135/9781473930162](http://dx.doi.org/10.4135/9781473930162)

5. According to Dr. Thomson in the second video, longitudinal data focuses on gathering data:

- in quantitative ways
  - Feedback for choosing this answer: Incorrect.
- in qualitative ways
  - Feedback for choosing this answer: Incorrect.
- with both quantitative and qualitative ways
  - Feedback for choosing this answer: Incorrect.
- over (or through) time
  - Feedback for choosing this answer: Correct. She covers gathering qualitative data and quantitative data over time in what is referred to as longitudinal studies.

**Reading Articles**

6. Click on this link. What kind of article is it? (If the document doesn't open, right click the link and open in it another tab.)

[Panel in Guide on the Side would display this article:]

- Quantitative
  - Feedback for choosing this answer: Incorrect. This article uses quantitative data and tools to produce results but there is a better answer on this list of options. Quantitative studies generate numerical data, usually examining relationships between two or more variables. Researchers use such methods as: close-ended
interviews; surveys; clinical trials; and laboratory experiments. To learn more, look up "quantitative research" in the Encyclopedia of Social Work, linked from the SOWK Subject Guide.

Qualitative
  o  Feedback for choosing this answer: Incorrect. This article doesn't use qualitative research methods. According to the Encyclopedia of Social Work, qualitative methods, "... favor naturalistic observation and interviewing." Researchers use such methods as: open-ended interviews; focus groups; observation or participant observation. Qualitative studies use words to report findings rather than numbers. To learn more, look up "qualitative research" in the Encyclopedia of Social Work, linked from the SOWK Subject Guide.

Review
  o  Feedback for choosing this answer: Incorrect. This article doesn't report the current state of research on the topic from many different papers.

Longitudinal
  o  Feedback for choosing this answer: Correct. This paper (and many others) come from data gathered in a large research project that many of the authors are involved with.

Secondary Analysis
  o  Feedback for choosing this answer: Incorrect. This paper is a kind of secondary article in a way, by using a large trove of data to answer a particular research question, but another option on this list better describes the research data collected over time.

7. What is the purpose of this article?

To report that adolescent depressed mood is related to the development of subsequent mental health problems.
  o  Feedback for choosing this answer: Incorrect. This statement, from the first sentence of the abstract, states a part of the scholarly conversation already underway. It doesn't state the purpose of this article.

To report that mental health problems like depression are common during adolescence and are among the largest contributors to public health costs associated with this developmental period.
  o  Feedback for choosing this answer: Incorrect. This statement, the first sentence from the introduction, states a part of the scholarly conversation already underway. It doesn't state the purpose of this article.
To report on sources of family conflict.
  o  Feedback for choosing this answer: Incorrect. This is part of the correct answer, but not all of it.
This research explores the connection between depressed mood and family conflict over time.
  o  Feedback for choosing this answer: Correct. This idea is in the middle of the article abstract, but in another kind of sentence. This statement, which I think is a bit easier to understand, is in the conclusion section. This statement doesn't mention how the authors ruled out a list of other factors that might cause depressed mood.

8. What factors were the researchers able to eliminate from the list of causes?

  academic performance
    o  Feedback for choosing this answer: Incorrect.
  academic performance; bullying; cognitive style; and gender
    o  Feedback for choosing this answer: Correct.
  cognitive style and gender
    o  Feedback for choosing this answer: Incorrect. This is in the list of factors they were able to eliminate, but there's more.
  academic performance and bullying
    o  Feedback for choosing this answer: Incorrect. This is in the list of factors they were able to eliminate, but there's more.

9. How is this article useful to social workers?

  It can help inform further research.
    o  Feedback for choosing this answer: Incorrect. This is true but there is a better answer.
  It can help inform policy development.
    o  Feedback for choosing this answer: Incorrect. This is true but there is a better answer.

  It can help inform program design.
    o  Feedback for choosing this answer: Incorrect. This is true but there is a better answer. All the above.
All the above
  o Feedback for choosing this answer: Correct.

Citations

10. Click on this link to see a list of citations. Which citation is correct? (If the document won't open, try right clicking the link and opening it in another tab.)

Citation 1
  o Feedback for selecting the above answer: Correct. This is a properly formed APA citation for a paper with a DOI by more than seven authors from a journal.

Citation 2
  o Feedback for selecting the above answer: Incorrect. This is not a properly formed APA citation for a paper by more than seven authors.

Citation 3
  o Feedback for selecting above answer: Incorrect. This citation came from the citation generator in the library's Quick Search tool. This citation information comes from publisher databases and is often inaccurate. In this citation, the article title isn't capitalized correctly, the journal title and volume number are not in italics. Also, the list of author names should not include an ampersand and ellipses for an article by more than seven authors.

Citation 4
  o Feedback for selecting the above answer: Incorrect. This citation lacks volume and issue numbers.

11. Which is the correct way to cite this article in the text of a paper you might write?

(Kelly, A., et al., 2016)
  o Feedback for selecting the above answer: Incorrect. In-text citations do not call for the author's first name initial.

(Kelly et al., 2016)
o Feedback for selecting the above answer: Correct. This is how you would cite this article in the text of your paper since there are six or more authors on the paper. Check page 177 of the APA Manual for more information.

(Kelly, A., 2016)
   o Feedback for selecting the above answer: Incorrect. The article you are looking at was written by more than one author.

Kelly, Mason, Chmelka, Herrenkohl, & Catalano, 2016)
   o Feedback for selecting the above answer: Incorrect. The article was written by 9 people. These are the first five authors listed on the paper but in-text citation for articles with six or more authors do not include everyone’s name.

Submit your Answers

Please enter your name and email address to retrieve a copy of your completed quiz.

Your name:

Email address:

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