JMU Libraries, Information Literacy Exercise for Social Work Research Methods (SOWK 305), Learning Outcome 19: Characteristics of Meta-Analysis Research

[NB: 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.

Contents:

- Can you see a website to the right?
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- What are journals?
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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 meta-analysis (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/10560*

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

- Child and Adolescent
  - Feedback for choosing this answer: Incorrect. Try again.
- Child and Adolescent Social Work Journal
  - 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.

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: Correct. 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.

Feedback for choosing this answer: Incorrect. 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.

Feedback for choosing this answer: Incorrect. 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.

Feedback for choosing this answer: Incorrect. This is true but, there's a better answer in your list of options.
All the above.
  o Feedback for choosing this answer: Correct. 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 describing the meta-analysis method. (If the page won't open, try right clicking the link and opening it in another tab.) http://dx.doi.org/10.4135/9781473970526

5. 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.)


Quantitative
  o Feedback for choosing this answer: Incorrect. This article doesn’t use quantitative data and tools to produce results. 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 uses qualitative research methods and data, but there is another option on this list that better describes it. 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 tend to 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 Research Guide.

Review
  o Feedback for choosing this answer: Incorrect. This article does more than review the current state of research on the topic from different studies.

Mixed-methods
  o Feedback for choosing this answer: Incorrect. This article doesn't use mixed research methods. Mixed-methods articles use a combination of methods--such as qualitative and quantitative--to answer research questions.

Meta-Analysis
  o Feedback for choosing this answer: Correct. This paper pulls together data from various studies to create an aggregated result. This paper happens to aggregate findings from qualitative research. Meta-analysis is commonly conducted on quantitative research data (in the form of numbers) to compute an aggregated result.

Reading Articles

6. What is the purpose of this article?

  to gather data on police behavior, particularly alleged misconduct
  o Feedback for choosing this answer: Incorrect. This phrase, from the first sentence of the second paragraph of the introduction states a part of the problem, but it doesn’t state the purpose of this article.

  to explain that youth between the ages of 10 and 24 have the most involuntary contact with police officers.
  o Feedback for choosing this answer: Incorrect. This phrase, the first sentence from the introduction section, states a part of the scholarly conversation already underway. It doesn't state the purpose of this article.

  to measure police brutality.
  o Feedback for choosing this answer: Incorrect. This study does not focus on measuring police brutality. It seeks to learn about the perceptions of minority youth experiences with police.

  to capture these experiences through the voices of minority youth in recounting their contacts with the police.
  o Feedback for choosing this answer: Correct. This idea is in the middle of the article abstract, the results section, and other places.
8. What themes did the researchers arrive at in their analysis? (Hint: Skimming the tables in such articles will often reveal such information.)

Aggressive policing; Police misconduct; Police violence
  o Feedback for choosing this answer: Incorrect. All three are themes reported on by a study the authors analyzed. These are not themes the meta-analysis generated.
Dangerous; Controlling; Prejudiced
  o Feedback for choosing this answer: Incorrect. These are some of the themes derived from the meta-analysis, but not all of them.
racial bias
  o Feedback for choosing this answer: Incorrect. This concept could be used to describe the results of this study, but it is not a theme from the meta-analysis.
Dangerous; Controlling; Prejudiced; Ineffective; Negative cases.
  o Feedback for choosing this answer: Correct. As results of their meta-analysis, these are the five themes the researchers arrived at that describe how minority youths experienced interactions with the police.

9. How is this article useful to social workers?

This research offers social workers insight into the marginalization experienced by youth who come from minority communities.
  o Feedback for choosing this answer: Incorrect. This phrase comes directly from the conclusion of the article. 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. 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.)

[Panel in Guide on the Side would display this document that is saved with the file you are currently reading. It is saved as: This question links to Outcome-19-Characteristics-of-Meta-Analysis-CITATION-LIST.pdf]

Citation 1
  o Feedback for selecting the 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. The article title is not capitalized correctly.

Citation 2
  o Feedback for selecting the above answer: Incorrect. This citation doesn’t include a volume number of issue number.

Citation 3
  o Feedback for selecting above answer: Correct. This is a properly formed APA citation for a four-author paper with a DOI from an online journal.

Citation 4
  o Feedback for selecting the above answer: Incorrect. This citation incorrectly shortens the list of authors.

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

(Nordberg, Crawford, Praetorius, & Hatcher, 2016)
  o Feedback for selecting the above answer: Correct. This is how you would first cite this article in the text of your paper. If you cited this work later in your paper, you would use the form of: (Nordberg et al., 2016).

(Nordberg et al., 2016)
  o Feedback for selecting the above answer: Incorrect. You're close. This is how you would cite the paper after you've already cited it with all four names earlier in a paper.

(Nordberg, A., 2016)
  o Feedback for selecting the above answer: The article was written by more than one author.

(Nordberg, A., Crawford, M., Praetorius, R., & Hatcher, S., 2016)
  o Feedback for selecting the above answer: Incorrect. You're close. The article was written by 4 people, but the in-text citation shouldn't include first initials.
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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