JMU Libraries, Information Literacy Exercise for Social Work Research Methods (SOWK 305), Learning Outcome 20: Characteristics of Secondary Analysis Research

[NS: 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 digitial 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 vesse@jmu.edu]

Open JMU Libraries website.

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- Can you see a website to the right?
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- What are journals?
- Types of Articles
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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 images 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 secondary-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: http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/whsp20/current]

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

Social Work
  o Feedback for choosing this answer: Incorrect. Try again.
Social Work in Public Health
  o Feedback for choosing this answer: Correct. The journal is called Social Work in Public Health.
Taylor & Francis Online
  o Feedback for choosing this answer: Incorrect. That’s the name of the publishing company, try again.
None of the above
  o 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 "Aims and Scope " 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.
  o 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 "Aims and Scope" 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 "Aims and Scope." 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 not peer reviewed.

True

Feedback for choosing this answer: Incorrect.

False

Feedback for choosing this answer: Correct.

4. Where did you find this information?

[OPEN TEXT FIELD]. (Answer, on the Aims and Scope page)

5. 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.

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

Read the first two paragraphs of the chapter, What is Secondary Analysis? from Janet Heaton’s 2004 book, Reworking Qualitative Data. (If the page won't open, try right clicking the link and opening it in another tab.)

[Panel in Guide on the Side would display this article:]
http://methods.sagepub.com/book/reworking-qualitative-data/n1.xml

Also, watch this brief video segment where Dr. Sally Wiggins describes secondary analysis for her study starting at 2:26 and ending at 4:15 (If the page won't open, try right clicking the link and opening it in another tab.)

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

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 in 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 and data. 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 doesn’t report the current state of research on the topic from many different papers.

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.

Secondary Analysis
  o Feedback for choosing this answer: Correct. This is a secondary analysis research article. The authors of this article used data they did not gather to answer their own research question.

Reading Articles

7. Articles often use abbreviations to convey information quickly. In this article, the authors use the abbreviation ACE. What does ACE stand for?

Abuse in Childhood Evaluations
  o Feedback from choosing this answer: Incorrect.

Adverse Childhood Experiences
  o Feedback from choosing this answer: Correct. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention defines adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) as any one of the following experiences occurring before age 18: emotional, physical, or sexual abuse; substance abuse by a household member; mental illness of a household member; incarceration of a household member; or physical abuse of the respondent’s mother.

Second level - any two combinations of abuse.
  o Feedback from choosing this answer: Incorrect. This is one of the three parts of ACE, but it doesn't tell you what ACE stands for.

First level - any single form of abuse (emotional, physical, or sexual)
Feedback from choosing this answer: Incorrect. This is one of the three parts of ACE, but it doesn't tell you what ACE stands for.

8. What is the purpose of this article?

Connecting childhood abuse to decreased physical and mental health for low-income women in Utah.
- Feedback from 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.

Reporting on the extensive history of childhood abuse among low-income women in Utah.
- Feedback from choosing this answer: Incorrect. This statement, the first sentence from the literature review section, states a part of the scholarly conversation already underway. It doesn't state the purpose of this article.

Learning what ACEs are.
- Feedback from choosing this answer: Incorrect. This stands for Adverse Childhood Experiences defined by the Center for Disease Control, but this doesn't describe the purpose of the study.

Explores the connection between childhood abuse, depression with mental health barriers to work/employment.
- Feedback for choosing this section: Correct. This idea is in the middle of the article abstract, the results section and other places.

Reading Articles

9. How is this article useful to social workers?

It can help inform further research.
- Feedback from choosing this answer: Incorrect. This is true but there is a better answer.

It can help inform policy development.
- Feedback from choosing this answer: Incorrect. This is true but there is a better answer.

It can help inform program design.
- Feedback from choosing this answer: Incorrect. This is true but there is a better answer.

All the above.
- Feedback from 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.)

[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-20-Characteristics-of-Secondary-Analysis-CITATIONS-LIST.pdf]

Citation 1
- Feedback for selecting the above answer: Correct. This is a properly formed APA citation for a three-author paper from a journal with a DOI.

Citation 2
- Feedback for selecting the above answer: Incorrect. This is not a properly formed APA citation for a three author paper.

Citation 3
- Feedback for selecting above answer: Correct. 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.

Citation 4
- 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?

(Cambron, Gringeri, & Vogel-Ferguson, 2015)
- Feedback for selecting the above answer: Correct. This is how you would first cite this article in the text of your paper with three to five authors. If you cited this work later in your paper, you would use the form of: (Cambron et al., 2015).

(Cambron et al., 2015)
- 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 your writing.

(Cambron, C., 2016)
- Feedback for selecting the above answer: Incorrect. The article was written by more than one author.

(Cambron, C., Gringeri, C., & Vogel-Ferguson, M.B., 2015)
- Feedback for selecting the above answer: Incorrect. You're close. This article was written by three 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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