An Informative Guide to Quantitative and Qualitative Research Philosophy

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Research Methodologies

What are they?

How do you know what one to use?

Quantitative

Mixed

Qualitative

Quantitative
Generalizations, or theories are developed

Deductive
Hypothesis driven
Quantitative
Basic on logic and fact
Good when a lot is known
Common in medical research

Researcher tests or verifies a theory

Researcher tests a hypothesis from the theory

Researcher defines and operationalizes variables

Researcher measures variables using an instrument

Inductive
Used to form explanation or theory
Qualitative
Based on observation
Good when little is known
Rare in medical research

Researcher looks for patterns, or theories

Researcher analyzes data into themes or categories

Researcher asks open ended questions

Researcher gathers information

Inductive vs. deductive approaches
Research Resources at Walden

Center for Research Quality
http://academicguides.waldenu.edu/researchcenter

- Office hours for qualitative and quantitative research for doctoral capstone and dissertation

Academic Skills Center
http://academicguides.waldenu.edu/academicskillscenterhome

- Statistics Tutoring for courses
- NVIVO tutoring for qualitative research