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New and Notable

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New and Notable

by Ronald J. Chenail

The Qualitative Report, Volume 2, Number 1, Spring, 1994

In the last year or so, there has been an explosion of qualitative research books. In addition, there are a number of notable journals which publish qualitative research and which may be "new" to many qualitative researchers. In the following sections, I have annotated a number of these new books and journals as a way to introduce our readers some of the best of this recent crop.

Books

Crabtree, B. F., & Miller, W. L. (Eds.). (1992). *Doing qualitative research*. Newbury Park, CA: Sage.

Crabtree and Miller are two of the leading qualitative researchers in primary care medicine. Their book is an excellent "how to" volume and what makes this book especially helpful is that it includes two completed studies, one by focus group expert, David Morgan.

Denzin, N. K., & Lincoln, Y. S. (Eds.). (1994). *Handbook of qualitative research*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Virtually every nook and cranny of the qualitative research world is covered in this massive book. Computer data analysis, critical theory, semiotic analysis, writing, clinical research, case studies, and interviewing are just some of the topics covered in this work's 36 chapters.

Edwards, J. A., & Lampert, M. D. (Eds.). (1993). *Talking data: Transcription and coding in discourse research*. Hillsdale, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum.

This is the first book I have seen in which a variety of transcription schemes and approaches have been gathered in one work. The writing can be terribly technical, but if you are working in the areas of discourse and conversation analysis, then this book is a must.

Flinders, D. J., & Mills, G. E. (Eds.). (1993). *Theory and concepts in qualitative research: Perspectives from the field*. New York: Teachers College Press.

An interesting examination of the role theory plays in qualitative research. The authors present a variety of ways theory can guide inquiry. They present a good contrast to the more "grounded-theory approaches" to research.

LeCompte, M. D., Millroy, W. L., & Preissle, J. (Eds.). (1992). *The handbook of qualitative research in education*. New York: Academic Press.

Maybe not as broad in scope as the Denzin and Lincoln handbook, yet this opus has some truly outstanding chapters. There is a strong critical theory representation here, as well as excellent papers on teaching qualitative research, evaluating evaluation research, and Harry Wolcott's discussion of posturing in qualitative inquiry.

Miles, M. B., & Huberman, A. M. (1994). *Qualitative data analysis: An expanded sourcebook* (2nd ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

A "coffee table" size book in which Miles and Huberman exhaustively survey the latest in scientific-oriented qualitative research. They have also included an interesting appendix on choosing computer programs for qualitative data analysis.

Morris, G. H., & Chenail, R. J. (Eds.). (1995). *The talk of the clinic: Explorations in the analysis of medical and therapeutic discourse*. Hillsdale, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum.

In this book, the editors bring together a number of clinical practitioners and clinical researchers who take a language-perspective in their work. The result is a series of chapters on supervision in family therapy, doctor-patient interaction, medical information hot-lines, therapeutic research, and inter-session discourse analysis of Milan-style family therapy.

Munhall, P. L., & Boyd, C. O. (Eds.). (1993). *Nursing research: A qualitative perspective*. New York: National League for Nursing Press.

Along with education, sociology, and anthropology, nursing remains one of the best sources for qualitative research works. This is very good text for introducing students to qualitative research. Especially good are the chapters on proposal writing and evaluation of qualitative research.

Ragin, C. C., & Becker, H. S. (Eds.). (1992). *What is a case? Exploring the foundations of social inquiry*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

This is an excellent view of studies with "small N's." Ragin is an author whose work is worth pursuing and this is a book for those researchers who wish to make knowledge claims based upon the analysis of one or a handful of cases, or at the least, those researchers who see the value in exploring the richness of 1.

Wolcott, H. F. (1994). *Transforming qualitative data: Description, analysis, interpretation*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Harry Wolcott's writing is a pleasure to read and to re-read. His is one of the richest and clearest voices we have in the field. In this, his latest work, he presents a practical view of the analytical process from an ethnography perspective; thereby, he draws wonderful distinctions between describing, analyzing, and interpreting.

Journals

Three journals about which qualitative researchers should know are the following:

International Journal of Qualitative Studies in Education is a quarterly edited by J. Amos Hatch and Richard Wisniewski of the University of Tennessee and is published by Taylor & Francis of London and Washington, DC.

Health Communication is a quarterly edited by Teresa Thompson of the University of Dayton and is published by Lawrence Erlbaum Associates in Hillsdale, NJ.

Qualitative Health Research: An international, interdisciplinary journal is a quarterly edited by Janice Morse of the University of Alberta and is published by Sage Publications in Thousand Oaks, CA.

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