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**Online
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Qualitative Research Design: Grounded Theory

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What is Grounded Theory (GT) research? [1]

- A systematic, qualitative procedure used to generate a theory that explains a process, an action or an interaction about a substantive topic.
- This theory is a “process” theory: It explains an educational process of events, activities, actions and interactions that occur over time.
- Allowing theory to emerge during the process of research.

Source: Creswell (2012)

What is GT research? [2]

- Involves systematic procedures: collecting data, identifying categories (or themes), connecting these categories, forming a theory that explains the process.
- Offers a step-by-step, systematic procedure for analyzing data.
- A researcher actively conceptualising patterns or connections in the data that would lead to theory.

Source: Creswell (2012)

The key characteristics of GT research [1]

Characteristics	GT
Focus	Developing a theory grounded in data from the field.
Type of problem best suited for design	Grounding a theory in the views of participants.
Discipline background	Drawing from sociology.
Unit of analysis	Studying a process, an action, or an interaction involving many individuals.

Source: Creswell (2013, p.104)

The key characteristics of GT research [2]

Characteristics	GT
Data collection forms	Using primarily interviews with 20-60 individuals.
Data analysis strategies	Analysing data through open coding, axial coding and selective coding .
Written report	Generating a theory illustrated in a figure.

Source: Creswell (2013, p.105)

Summary

GT design:

- A process approach
- Theoretical sampling
- Constant comparative data analysis
- A core category
- Theory generation
- Memos

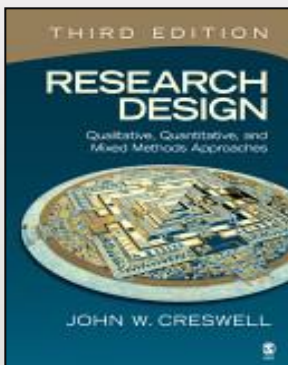
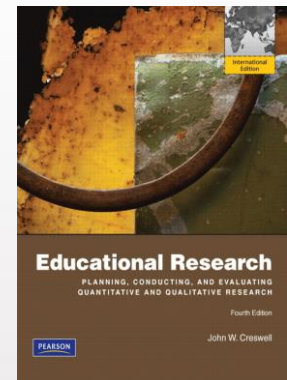
Source: Creswell (2012, p.431)

References



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