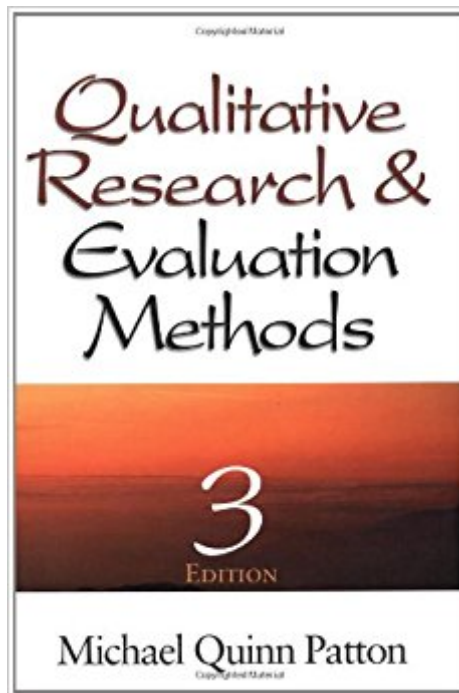




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Qualitative Research & Evaluation Methods



Synopsis

The book that has been a resource and training tool for countless applied researchers, evaluators, and graduate students has been completely revised with hundreds of new examples and stories illuminating all aspects of qualitative inquiry. Patton has created the most comprehensive, systematic and up-to-date review of qualitative methods available. Patton has retained and expanded upon the Exhibits that highlight and summarize major issues and guidelines, the summative sections, tables, and figures as well as the sage advice of the Sufi Master, Halcolm. This revision will help readers integrate and make sense of the great volume of qualitative works published in the past decade.Â

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Paton has a distinguished career as an evaluation researcher and his experience in applying the tools of qualitative research to address the questions and concerns of those in the world of practice come through clearly… a gem of a discussion of sampling strategies in qualitative research that is useful not only to prospective researchers but also to more seasoned ones. It is the most complete and carefully reasoned consideration of sampling in qualitative research that I have encountered" -- Review

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useful not only to prospective researchers but also to more seasoned ones. It is the most complete and carefully reasoned consideration of sampling in qualitative research that I have encountered" (Organizational Research Methods)

I enjoyed the book overall. I found the stories enlightening and intelligent, and the stories provided a nice context/backstory for the research Patton discusses. In that sense it is a good intro book for qualitative methods, and I found his discussion on qualitative evaluation more helpful than the discussion on basic or applied qualitative research. I found it to be a bit limiting when I set out to actually do the research in that the book doesn't provide enough guidance in the work of analysis. More guidance on the actual process of analysis would have been very helpful. In addition, I found much of the discussion on the use of technology a bit dated and overly light in some ways, such as Patton's discussion on the traps that researchers can fall into in data collection when using computer programs.

Great resource for understanding the ins and outs of qualitative research. The book was constantly on my desk through my qualitative course and was probably the one I referenced most.

As a senior in college who is conducting interviews with high school and college students, I would recommend this book. It provides an excellent jumping off point for both novice student interviewers as well as seasoned teachers. Patton, himself an experienced interviewer, and also an award-winning teacher and storyteller, outlines all the necessary steps involved in the interview process in a very entertaining way. The book reads much like a textbook, complete with original cartoons, historical examples, and vast personal experience. Moreover, inspirational and often amusing quotes kickoff each section. Appearing throughout the book is the fictional sage-like character Halcolm, a philosophical alter ego of Patton, who, "like his name (pronounced slowly)," forces the reader to ask "how come?" (p. A2). Patton has divided Qualitative Research and Evaluation into three main parts: Conceptual Issues in Qualitative Inquiry, Qualitative Designs and Data Collection, and finally Analysis, Interpretation, and Reporting. Under each section are many subsections, all clearly laid out in a very detailed table of contents. For example, Conceptual Issues is divided into four subcategories: The Nature of Qualitative Inquiry, Strategic Themes in Qualitative Inquiry, Variety in Qualitative Inquiry: Theoretical Orientations, and finally Particularly Appropriate Qualitative Applications. Furthermore, these four subcategories are then broken down in additional detail in the table of contents. The titles of these sections (and chapters) are somewhat typical for

the text as a whole in that they rely on sociological terminology that may be unfamiliar to beginners. At first glance, the table of contents appears to be little more than a patchwork of intellectual vocabulary, but the book reads in much simpler terms. The index to the book is also very useful for finding numerous narrowed down focuses. I found this the most helpful. For example, when I wanted to find out about transcribing interviews, I was able to find all of the relevant chapters and information at once. Unfortunately, however, Patton's broad scope is also his main weakness. It is very easy to become bogged down by the mass amount of details and by his many examples. Also, for scholars primarily interested in the interview process, only the final section is useful, especially in the field of analysis. Patton attempts to cover all of the basics of interviewing, and provides an excellent outline, but nothing can compare to actual experience. Nevertheless, it is highly recommended that first-time interviewers consult Patton's book for an introductory guide, and even veteran interviewers can learn something from Patton's vast experience. Researchers will also find Patton's 36 pages of single-spaced references very helpful, and graduate students will find it invaluable for dissertations.

Patton's book is one of the foundational sources in most entry level qualitative classes. It is helpful but very wordy. At times, it is difficult to wade through it all. If one has time, this book is a must in addition to other qualitative books. It certainly was a good resource to have on hand in writing up the methodology section of my dissertation.

Great Book!

Not a riveting read, but a solid book for what the title suggests. It has guided me in my research and in my preparation of academic papers in the field.

Dr. Patton is one of the masters of qualitative research. The book is thick, but the writing is very clear. The book should be required reading for all doctoral students and researchers doing qualitative research.

This text is pragmatic and user-friendly. The author interjects humor and experience to help readers understand on a classroom level and not from a lofty (translate that to stuffy) viewpoint. I used it for a graduate level Qualitative Analysis course and will keep it to help me with future research. I highly recommend this book.

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