## Exercise 9.1 Helpful graphical display (Qualitative)

Briefly reflect on a journal article that you have recently read, not necessarily a systematic review.

For this exercise, I chose:

Bohren, M.A., Hunter, E.C., Munthe-Kaas, H.M., Souza, J.P., Vogel, J.P. and Gülmezoglu, A.M.

Facilitators and barriers to facility-based delivery in low- and middle-income countries: a qualitative evidence synthesis. Reprod Health. 2014, 11(1): 71. doi: 10.1186/1742-4755-11-71.

Available from: <https://reproductive-health-journal.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/1742-4755-11-71>

How did tabular or graphical display make it easier to read?

I found the Table 2 depiction of a thematic analysis helpful in demonstrating the different levels of abstraction for themes from third order down to first order. Thus, more abstract themes were supported by their underlying data. Also, there was clear transparency for reference identifiers of studies supporting a particular first level theme.

Were any tabular or graphical aspects difficult to understand and interpret? If so, why?

I found myself wondering whether readers may unconsciously ‘vote count’ by giving prominence to first order constructs that are supported by a greater number of reference numbers. Also, second-order constructs would not be directly supported by individual studies (as they are manufactured constructs) so transparency may be lost at a subsequent level of abstraction. Also, formatting is a great deal clearer in the pdf version of the article than in the html version, which looks a much cruder version.

## Exercise 9.2 Choosing your method of synthesis

Examine the different methods of synthesis outlined in this chapter. Sort them into those of current potential for your review, those that are unlikely to prove useful at present, and those for which you need to obtain further detail. Produce a draft learning plan for further reading/research on data synthesis:

* Bayesian meta-analysis
* Critical interpretive synthesis
* Framework synthesis
* Grounded theory
* Meta-analysis
* Meta-ethnography
* Meta-study
* Narrative synthesis
* Realist synthesis
* Thematic synthesis

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| **Current potential**  | **Further detail required**  | **Not relevant at present**  |
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