

Qualitative E-Interview Research

**Worksheet: ICT Features for Data Collection**

Chapter 5 of [*Qualitative Online Interviews*](http://www.sagepub.com/books/Book241778) focuses on the decision-making process for selection of the appropriate Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs) for the study. Keep in mind that you will most likely need to interact a number of times with participants to recruit, negotiate consent, schedule and arrange the interview, conduct one or more interviews, and carry out related observations and/or follow-up with participants. You may find that you use the same, or different technology depending on the stage of the process. It is important to consider not only your own access and level of expertise, but also your participants’ access and comfort with the technology.

The features and ways you communicate are described in this book, versus the social networking site or brand name, since brands used vary internationally and many platforms or sites offer more than one way to communicate. In this exercise, name the ICT feature and the tool, platform or social media site. This will help you identify any permissions, training or other steps you will need to make to utilize the ICT for the intended purpose.

Think through each of the online communication types described in Chapter 5 and use this table to name the ICT(s) you will use at each stage, a rationale for your choice, your current level of expertise with this technology and questions or concerns. For example:

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| Research Stage | **ICT(s)** | **Rationale** | | **Access/ Level of Expertise** | **Questions, Concerns or Issues to Address** |
| Recruit | Members-only email list | Members participate daily | | Expert  I will gain access through the moderator. | I will need moderator permission to post, and the list eschews any advertising or promotion so I will need to word the message carefully. If too few respond I will find an alternative. |
| Negotiate consent | Text message or email | I can explain the study requirements and send the consent agreement link. | | Expert | I will let participant choose email or text message exchange. |
| Arrange interview | Online calendar poll | An online calendar poll minimizes back and forth for scheduling. | | Expert | None |
| Conduct interview | Skype | I want to see the person’s non-verbal messages and attain “synchronicity” with full focus of participant. | | I have no experience using for interviews  Population uses Skype | I will plan practice interviews and make sure the recording software works. |
| Observe | Facebook | Group members have a Facebook page | | User | I will seek consent to observe the participant on Facebook. Concern: participant may interact with others who have not consented. Need to decide how to handle posted images. |
| Follow-up | Email | I can attach the transcript | | Expert | None |

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| Recruit |  |  | |  |  |
| Negotiate consent |  |  | |  |  |
| Arrange interview |  |  | |  |  |
| Conduct interview |  |  | |  |  |
| Observe |  |  | |  |  |
| Follow-up |  |  | |  |  |