Activities

# Chapter 9: Surveys, action research and historical research

## Activity 9.1

Consider the appropriateness of using the survey method and the specific survey design used in both studies.

Montayrea, J. Dimalapangb, E. Sparks, T. and Neville, S. (2019) New Zealand nursing students' perceptions of biosciences: A cross-sectional survey of relevance to practice, teaching delivery, self-competence and challenges, *Nurse Education Today*, 79: 48–53.

Hollins Martin, C.J. MacArthur, J. Martin, C.R. and McInnes, R.J. (2019) Midwives’ views of changing to a Continuity of Midwifery Care (CMC) model in Scotland: A baseline survey, *Women and Birth*, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.wombi.2019.08.005>

## Activity 9.2

Action research is sometimes referred to as emancipatory, participatory or collaborative research. Give a rationale for the use of each of these names (including action research). Which name do you think best describes the fundamental principles of this research method?

## Activity 9.3

Consider the appropriateness of using the action research method in both of these studies.

Padilha, J.M. Sousa, A.P. and Pereira, F.M. (2016) Participatory action research: A strategy for improving self-care management in chronic obstructive pulmonary disease patients, *Action Research,* 14(3): 240–256. https://doi.org/10.1177%2F1476750315606196

Shallow, H.E.D. Deery, R. and Kirkham, M. (2018) Exploring midwives’ interactions with mothers when labour begins: A study using participatory action research, *Midwifery,* 58: 64–70.

## Activity 9.4

Compare your list of primary and secondary data sources with ours:

Diaries; written, audio and video format

Autobiographies

Letters

Biographies

Case studies

Parish records

Registers of births, marriages and deaths

Narrative accounts

Government reports

Newspapers

Journals and magazines; professional and popular

Video-clips

Minutes of meetings

Census

Financial accounts

Buildings

Tombstones

Monuments

Family trees

Paintings

Photographs

Artefacts and objects

Oral accounts

General literature such as the works of Dickens, Trollope and Brontë

Textbooks

The National Archives (Kew) or

The National Archives of Scotland (Edinburgh)

The Wellcome Library

Ballads and songs

Poetry

Court reports

Clothing

Family bibles

Postcards

Patient notes and hospital records

Conference reports and presentations

Stamps

Coins

Maps

Films, television and radio programmes

Family archives

Archives of organisations

Libraries and museums

Interviews and focus groups with relevant informants

Clinical databases

Archaeological specimens

Is there anything you would add to our list?

As you will have no doubt concluded, the list of possible data sources is extensive.

## Activity 9.5

What do the authors of both papers tell you about the way in which the data were gathered?

McIntosh, T. (2016) Attrition from midwifery programmes at a midwifery school in the English midlands 1939–1973: A historical study, *Nurse Education Today*, 45: 63–68

Houlahan, B. (2018) Origins of School Nursing, *The Journal of School Nursing*, 34(3): 203–221. [https://doi.org/10.1177%2F1059840517735874](https://doi.org/10.1177/1059840517735874)

What do the findings tell you that are of relevance to the professions of nursing and midwifery today?

## Activity 9.6

Access one of the following to investigate the information and material available for would-be researchers

<http://wellcomelibrary.org/>

<https://www.rcog.org.uk/en/guidelines-research-services/library-services/archives-and-heritage/>

<https://www.rcn.org.uk/library/subject-guides/history-of-nursing>

<https://www.bmh.manchester.ac.uk/about/history-heritage/>