

"Clinical Research for the Doctor of Nursing Practice, 2nd Edition"

Allison J. Terry, 2015, 514 pages, Jones & Bartlett Learning, \$98.95

Review by Norman M. Goldfarb

"Clinical Research for the Doctor of Nursing Practice, 2nd Edition" is a straightforward, step-by-step handbook for students working on a capstone research project for their doctorate in nursing practice. It is also applicable to investigator-initiated clinical research, whether by nurses or physicians. This book lowers the hurdle for nurses and clinicians to contribute generalizable knowledge to the healthcare enterprise.

The following passage illustrates the clear writing in the book:

Advantages and Limitations of Quantitative Research

Quantitative research allows the investigator to establish correlational and causal relationships between variables. When the researcher is able to analyze statistics and test a theoretically derived hypothesis using a quantitative research design, he or she can present logical outcomes that have scientific validation. When the researcher uses a quantitative research design, data can be gathered using an objective approach to observing and reporting either a phenomenon that occurs or the behavior of the research subjects. This will allow the investigator to scientifically select the instrument to be used and gather the data without becoming emotionally involved with the participants or the overall research project. Therefore, the statistical significance of the hypothesis is maintained as the primary focus of the project. In addition, the researcher is able to identify the potential risks to research subjects early in the project so that complications can be minimized before the study progresses any further.

On the negative side, conducting quantitative research may yield a lack of subjective data about human interactions that would be necessary to answer research questions pertaining to social, internal or holistic phenomena. When a purely quantitative research design is used, the project cannot include the establishment of human emotions, habits, perceptions or experiences that could expose personal variables related to the research subjects that could influence the final outcome of the project. For example, patients' perceptions of treatments require a level of understanding that is more complex than a quantitative research design can produce. In addition, because the relationship between the researcher and the research subjects is detached and clinical in nature, participants may receive a negative impression of the overall project and the intent of the researcher (Palmer, 2009).

The book includes four example studies, including documents used in the studies.

The book consists of 16 chapters:

- Importance of Research in the Doctor of Nursing Practice Degree
- Developing the Researchable Problem
- Conducting a Literature Review
- Ethics in Clinical Research
- Designing a Clinically Based Quantitative Capstone Research Project
- Designing a Clinically Based Qualitative Capstone Research Project

- Designing a Clinically Based Mixed-Method Capstone Research Project
- Sampling
- Data Collection
- Issues Related to Survey Data Collection
- Data Analysis
- Writing the Research Report for Potential Publication
- Example: Reducing 30-Day Hospital Readmission of the Heart Failure Patient
- Example: A Community-Academic Collaboration to Impact Childhood Obesity
- Example: The Impact of Evidence-Based Design
- Example: The Lived Experience of Chronic Pain in Nurse Educators

The book is available in bookstores.

Reviewer

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