

Article Type Identification Guide

Use the following checklist to help you identify if your articles are Quantitative or Qualitative, Reviews, or Other.

Most, but not necessarily all, of these characteristics should be present to identify article as qualitative or quantitative.

Likely a Quantitative Study

1. Title or Abstract uses wording that reflects a comparison of multiple variables.
2. Title or Abstract names a specific quantitative method, e.g. Correlation, Cross-Sectional, Quasi-Experiment, Randomized Controlled Trial, Case-Control, Cohort in the method section.
3. The word Random or Randomized is used anywhere in the abstract.
4. The word Control or control group is used anywhere in the abstract.
5. The study includes an intervention for some or all of the participants.
6. The article contains numerous statistical tables (generally more than 2).
7. The results section is describe through statistical language, e.g. p values, Pearson's r, confidence intervals, T-test, ANOVA, logistic regression, etc.
8. There might be reference to data collection by structured questionnaires or structured interviews.
9. The sample is a human population, patients, participants, or subjects.
10. The article section is labeled by the journal as being "original research"
11. You do not see the words, qualitative, meta-analysis, meta-synthesis, or review of the literature anywhere in the abstract, title or description of the article (mixed method studies might also use the word qualitative).

Likely a Qualitative Study

1. The article is identified as qualitative anywhere in the title or abstract.
2. The article or abstract uses words such as phenomenology, hermeneutics, grounded theory, constant comparison, theoretical sampling, ethnography, emic, etc, key informants, trustworthiness, themes, core categories or any other language associated primarily with qualitative research.
3. The article title may be poetic sounding or uses a quote or is creative in some way.
4. The results section of the study are sub titled with the names of themes identified.
5. Data is collected by unstructured or semi-structured interviews, diaries, or focus groups. May include artistic work as data.
6. The results/findings are supported with direct quotes from participants.
7. The subjects are human, participants, key informants, and generally the sample size is under 30.
8. The article section is labeled by the journal as being "original research"

9. You do not see the words, quantitative, meta-analysis, meta-synthesis, or review of the literature anywhere in the abstract, title or description of the article (mixed method studies might also use the word quantitative).

Likely a Review Article

1. The words: meta-analysis, meta-synthesis, systematic review, literature review are used in the title or abstract.
2. The journal labels the article as a review.
3. The method section describes the study by literature database searches such as MEDLINE, CINAHL, Cochrane, PubMed Central, or ERIC (or others).
4. The sample is represented as numbers of articles and not numbers of participants (or both are mentioned).
5. The article includes a table of all articles included in the review.

Likely None of the Above

1. The article abstract and article content is not divided into subheadings such as background, purpose, sample, method, results, discussion, and conclusions.
2. The article comes from a journal that contains colorful pictures, artwork, or photographs.
3. The abstract/article fails to mention a specific method (e.g. qualitative, phenomenology, review, randomized controlled trial etc.).
4. The article is labeled as an editorial, opinion, discussion, or summary.
5. The article is identified as a “protocol” in the abstract/title or by the journal. It may have the appearance of a full study but it fails to give study results.
6. The abstract or article fails to mention a “sample” or a “sample size” which is evidence that no sample is present and this is not a research study.
7. The article may have a single author.
8. The article is less than 2 pages long.