



GREY MATTERS

A GUIDE TO COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH WITH SENIORS

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Glossary of Terms

Advisory committee – group of individuals who provide guidance and direction

Advocate – resources such as seniors associations, service providers, who work for social causes

Aging – process that happens to everyone, is not an illness or disability and is not a problem

Bias – influence in an unfair way

Changing – process of challenging beliefs and actions with an emphasis on participation and community

CIHR – Canadian Institutes of Health Research

Collaborating – process of building networks to improve outcomes and planning

Collaboration – form relationships to understand each other's priorities

Combination – mixed method research that enables you to combine data and information gathered in different ways

Community groups – organized citizens of various size and function

Comparison – process where the emphasis is on contrasts and diversity

Consent form – form listing the most common and worst possible risks of a procedure

Confirmation – process of what you will want to control in order to confirm relationships and patterns

Credibility – technique of good research believed to result from the perspective of the participants in the research

Critiquing – critical research that examines a particular stance related to values and power

CURA – Community University Research Alliances

Curiosity – process of discovering what has previously been unknown

Data – collection of facts

Data analysis – identification of themes or information through methods such as field-work, surveys, focus groups, and Participatory Action Research

Dependability – declaration of how carefully the research was conducted, problems that arose, and how any changes affected the study and the result

Development grant – money provided by a funding body to gain insight into specific social issues

Direct observation – occurs when the researcher sets time aside to deliberately observe and record what he or she sees

Ethics review – process to ensure that participants in the study meet all of the requirements of traditional research

Exploratory stage – stage of investigation

Facilitator – individual who engages people in a discussion about a specific question or topic while keeping the discussion focused

Field-work – short period of study that usually takes place away from a university setting

Focus group – form of qualitative research in which a group of people are asked to explore a specific and well-defined topic

Group leader – individual acting as mentor, instructor, guide, or supervisor to senior researchers

Informal networks – friends, acquaintances sharing information

Liaison committee – committee that works in partnership with another group

Management committee – oversees and implements the research project

Narrative research – captures people's experiences and thoughts through their stories

Narrative interviewing – process where the researcher listens to stories

Negotiation of process – method of data collection

Objectivity – an attempt to keep your own values and opinions out of data collection, data analysis, and presentation of findings

Observation – general term that includes options from direct observation to reflecting on past participation; part of all other types of research

Participation – full participation in all phases of research no matter which research approach is used; collaboration of equals

Participant observation – data collection where the researcher is part of the community under study

Participatory Action Research (PAR) – technique to mobilize communities to take control of the problems that oppress them

Partnered research – research that draws on both quantitative and qualitative methods

Partner sites – agencies, programs, or groups of seniors recruited as research sites for particular research groups

Peer counselling – seniors guiding other seniors

Peer-to-peer research – research where individuals have equal status

Personal life stories – narratives provided and collected by senior researchers and study participants

Pilot project – a small cast study designed to test a research question

Principle investigators – academic researchers named in the grant proposal

Process evaluation – analysis of what is being done and change that should be made

Professors emeritus – retired university professors

Project staff – individuals who worked with project participants

Protocol – step by step guide to conducting research

Qualitative research – research that seeks to uncover how people make meaning of their lives and how their ideas influence their action and relationships

Quantitative research – research that seeks to uncover the truth (the natural laws and theories) through careful and controlled observation and experimentation

Questionnaire – a form containing a series of questions

Recorder – individual who preserves the ideas during a focus group

Research – a thoughtful and careful process of asking and answering questions so that you have some confidence in what you find out and present to others

Research group – groups created around a specific topic suggested by the seniors

Resilience – a dynamic concept that manifests in different ways through life. “Resilience is about moving beyond adversity to strength, about turning hardships into insights, skills

and character that lead people to anticipate that they can handle future hardship” (Resilience workshop report, 2003). This view of resilience reinforces the value and the need to learn from seniors and to have them directly involved in the research process.

Service clubs – clubs that provide support in areas of funding, support, and information

Service providers – people who share certain expertise

Seven C’s of research – curiosity, confirmation, changing, collaborating, critiquing, combinations

Senior researcher – those who agreed to participate in the research project to learn about research and be studied as they conducted research

SSHRC – Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council

Storied research protocol – step by step guide to conducting research based on the collection of stories

Story – a narrative

Summary evaluation – identified achievements

Survey – a method of collecting data

Team building – process that includes leader/mentor and senior researchers

Transferability – relates to the findings of the project, not only similar situations

Vignette – short written story

