



A glance at the characteristics of Mixed Methods and importance of its application in library and Information Science Researches

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Disciplined inquiry about problems of a interdisciplinary Domain such as library and information science studies requires decision to be taken about an appropriate research design. In making such a decision, the researcher tacitly assumes a philosophical point of view or a research paradigm. There are four research paradigms which are the basis for the selection of research methodology and research methods. These paradigms include: a) positivism, b) interpretivism, c) critical theory, and d) post-structuralism. The basis of quantitative research methods is positivism, and of the quantitative research method is the three paradigms, as mentioned above. Due to nature and complexity of problems in library and information science settings, neither of the quantitative and qualitative research methods, alone, would be fully appropriate to investigate them thoroughly. Therefore, there has been a shift toward applying a combination of quantitative and qualitative approaches. Such a combination is called mixed method research. Based on the above, first a review of the philosophical point of view (paradigms) which are the basis of research methods is made. Then characteristics of mixed methods research are discussed and its applications in library and information science are described.

Key Words: Mixed methods, Mixed models, Qualitative research, Quantitative research, Library and Information Science