

Dimensions of choice: A qualitative approach to recreation, parks, and leisure research.

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Dimensions of choice: a qualitative approach to recreation, parks, and leisure research.

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Abstract : The book is an introduction to the philosophy, methods, and techniques of qualitative research and may be applied to interpretive research and qualitative studies in recreation and leisure. Its purpose is to provide a framework for using qualitative approaches in these fields. The thesis of the book is that researchers should have enough

to make choices about what research paradigms and methods are most appropriate given a particular research question. The text is divided into three parts: the first part describes the evolution of the use of the qualitative approach as applied to parks and leisure research. Two models are presented addressing (a) the relationship between the world views of interpretive and positivist research to research approaches and methods, and (b) the relationship between deductive theory and inductive theory. The first one is necessarily 'philosophical' and it provides a basis for why interpretive research might be chosen. The second part provides a discussion of the methods that are commonly associated with the qualitative approach. Field research/participatory research and indepth interviewing are the two most common qualitative methods used. The third part describes the techniques that are common to most qualitative methods. The fourth part identifies specific techniques for research planning, data discovery and collection, data interpretation, and explaining the results through writing. The last part provides specific strategies to explore when using qualitative methods.

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