N 536 - Utilization of Nursing Research in Advanced Practice, Summer 2008

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http://hdl.handle.net/2027.42/64943
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Compose Research Problems and Purposes

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Type of Study Conducted

- Knowledge available on topic
- Expertise of researcher
  - Replication versus Original research
- Resources of researcher
  - Amount of funding
  - Sources of funding
Original Research

- Original Research:
  - Unique or new research idea
  - For advanced researchers
  - For examples:
    - Dissertation
    - Funded research project
    - Program of research in an area
Replication Research

- Replication or repeating a study to confirm original findings

- Encouraged for novice or new researchers:
  - Thesis
  - First clinical research project
Types of Replication

- **Exact replication:**
  - Precise, exact duplication of original research project to confirm findings
  - Includes same design, instruments, sample, and setting as original study

- **Approximate replication:**
  - Repeating the original study under similar conditions, following methods as closely as possible
  - Most common type of replication conducted in nursing
Types of Replication

- Concurrent replication
  - Collection of data for original study and replication is done simultaneously
  - Replication is part of the original study design

- Systematic replication
  - Constructive replication done under new conditions where replication study does not follow the design or methods of the original study
  - But begins with similar problem and develops a new design to verify the findings
Research Topics

• Major concepts
• Focused on areas of concern
• Key issues for practice, education, administration
• For examples:
  o Chronic pain
  o Acute pain
  o Self-care
  o Coping
  o Health promotion
  o Respiratory pathology
What is a Problem?

- Area of concern
- Gap in the knowledge base for practice
  - Not previously studied
  - Conflicting findings
  - Omission of a group of subjects
- Significant for nursing
What is a Research Problem?

- A situation in need of a solution, improvement, or alteration
  or
- A discrepancy between the way things are and the way they ought to be
• Little is known about...
  o Findings of previous studies are conflicting
  o Few studies on a certain topic/issue have been done
Sources of Research Problems

- Nursing practice
- Research priorities
- Researcher and peer interaction
- Literature review
- Theory
Purpose Statement

- Clear, concise statement
- Indicates the goal, aim, focus, or objective of the study
- Includes the study variables, population, and setting
Purpose and Type of Study

- The purpose of a study is to
  - describe...
  - determine differences between groups...
  - examine relationships among...
  - determine the effect of...
Examining Study Feasibility

- Time commitment
- Money commitment
- Researchers’ expertise
- Availability of subjects, facility, and equipment
- Ethical considerations

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<tr>
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<th>Question</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Are the problem and purpose of the study clearly and concisely expressed?</td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>Does the purpose identify the variables, population, and setting of the study?</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>Are the problem and purpose significant to generate nursing knowledge?</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>Was it feasible for the researchers to study the problem and purpose identified?</td>
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Conceptual Framework

- An abstract, logical structure of meaning that guides the development of the study
- Enables the researcher to link the findings to the body of nursing knowledge
- Related terms:
  - Concept
  - Relational statement
  - Theory
  - Conceptual model
Terms Related to Framework (1)

- **Concept**
  - A term to which abstract meaning is attached

- **Relational Statement**
  - Declares a relationship of some kind exists between two or more concepts
• **Theory**
  - Integrated set of defined concepts and relational statements that presents a view of a phenomenon
  - Can be used to describe, explain, predict, or control the phenomenon
  - Statements of the theory, not the theory itself, are tested through research
Terms Related to Framework (3)

- Conceptual model
  - A set of highly abstract concepts and statements of relationships that broadly explains the phenomena of interest to a discipline
  - For example:
    - Neuman
    - Orem
    - Rogers
    - Roy
Planning a Research Project

- Please see the handout, entitled “Steps in planning your research projects”