

Community Validation as a Method to Establish Trustworthiness in Qualitative LIS Research

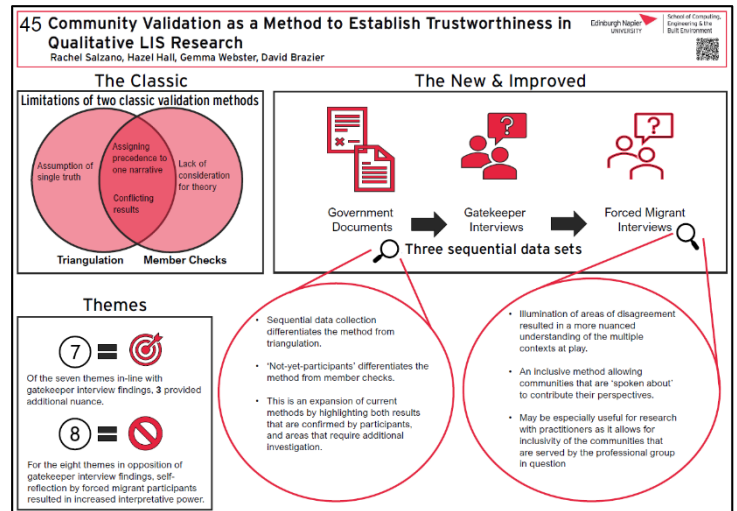
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This poster concerns a novel method of determining the trustworthiness of qualitative and mixed methods research. The poster evaluates the efficacy of community validation as it was applied in a larger qualitative research project exploring the relationship between culture and the use of public libraries by forced migrants. The findings shared here relate to community validation as a method specifically.

There are many classical forms of establishing trustworthiness in qualitative research, two of the most common being triangulation and member checks. Limitations of these classic validation methods have been identified, including the likelihood of conflicting results between methods, or between researcher and participant. The community validation method reported on in this poster addresses these limitations.

There are three main takeaways regarding the use of community validation. These are:

- The method expands upon current common methods of validation (i.e., triangulation and member checks);
- The method is more inclusive by allowing communities that are 'spoken about' to contribute their perspectives;
- The method enhances the interpretability of research findings.

The main conclusion suggested here is that community validation be incorporated into qualitative research, particularly that in which participants are informants on the community of interest.



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Meet Rachel

I am **Rachel Salzano**, a lecturer at **Edinburgh Napier University's School of Computing Engineering and the Built Environment**. I was born and raised in Colorado, USA, and currently live in Scotland. I hold a **Bachelor of Science in Psychology: Mind, Brain, and Behaviour**, from Colorado State University (USA), **Master of Library and Information Science** from San Jose State University (USA), and **Doctor of Philosophy** from Edinburgh Napier University (Scotland).

My research interests include information behaviours, information practices, public libraries, library advocacy, and culture. I am interested in collaborations on these (and related) interests.



About my PhD

The influence of culture on perceived use of public libraries by forced migrants in Scotland and England

This qualitative work is concerned with public library use in Scotland and England by forced migrants. The findings extend knowledge of the information practices of forced migrants in the context of public libraries. They are developed through the lens of the Theory of Information Worlds. The specific cultural factors of social norms and information value are identified as determinants of information practices of forced migrants in public libraries. This contribution on the role of culture in the information practices of forced migrants is significant in the context of prior work with its focus on public library use by forced migrants and best practices for library staff to support them. In addition, the role of service provider culture was distinguished as an important explanatory factor alongside the culture of forced migrants.

Selected Publications

Salzano, R., Brazier, D., Hall, H., & Webster, G. (2022). What are public libraries for? Culture as a determinant of conceptualizations of public library services for forced migrants. In Proceedings of the 85th Annual Meeting of the Association for Information Science and Technology, 58(1). <https://doi.org/10.1002/pr2.752>

Salzano, R., Hall, H., Webster, G., & Brazier, D. (2022). Is the public library included? An analysis of local government documentation on the integration of forced migrants in Scotland. Information Research. Information Research 27. <https://doi.org/10.47989/colis2218>

Brazier, D., **Salzano, R., & Ryan, B. (2021, September).** Information Literacy Workshops: Trials and tribulations of Public Engagement within a pandemic. Poster presented at European Conference on Information Literacy 2021, Bamberg, Germany

Salzano, R., Hall, H., & Webster, G. (2020). Coralling culture as a concept in LIS research. In Proceedings of the Association for Information Science and Technology, (e368). <https://doi.org/10.1002/pr2.368>

Salzano, R., Hall, H., & Webster, G. (2020). Investigating the 'why' rather than the 'how': Current research priorities on the influence of culture on new-comer populations' use of public libraries. Information Research, 25(4), <https://doi.org/10.47989/irisic2032>

Salzano, R., Hall, H., & Webster, G. (2020). The relationship between culture and public library use: non-Western students in Scotland. Information Research, 25(4 (supplement)), <https://doi.org/10.47989/irisic2035>