Contents

Notes on Contributors		ix
Ec	ditors' Acknowledgements	xii
Preface		xiii
1	The Foundations of Qualitative Research Dawn Snape and Liz Spencer	1
	Defining qualitative research	2
	The historical development of qualitative research Key philosophical and methodological issues	5
	in qualitative research	12
	The 'approach' within this book	18
	Key points	22
	Key terms	22
	Further reading	23
2	The Applications of Qualitative	
	Methods to Social Research	24
	Jane Ritchie	
	Theoretical and applied research	24
	The functions of qualitative research	26
	The functions of different qualitative methods	34
	Combining qualitative and quantitative methods	38
	Key points	44
	Key terms	45
	Further reading	46
3	Design Issues	47
	Jane Lewis	
	Defining the research questions	48
	Building design around research settings	
	and populations	49
	Selecting the time frame for research	53

vi QUALITATIVE RESEARCH PRACTICE

	Choosing a data collection method	56
	Negotiating research relationships	62
	Resourcing and timetabling qualitative research studies	71
	Key points	74
	Key terms	75
	Further reading	76
4	Designing and Selecting Samples	77
	Jane Ritchie, Jane Lewis and Gillian Elam	
	Sampling strategies for qualitative research	77
	Study populations	86
	Sample frames	88
	Designing a purposive sample	96
	Implementing the sample design	104
	Key points	107
	Key terms	107
	Further reading	108
5	Designing Fieldwork Strategies and Materials	109
	Sue Arthur and James Nazroo	
	Structuring data collection	110
	Designing topic guides	115
	Incorporating other research instruments and materials	127
	Preparing for fieldwork and refining fieldwork strategies	133
	Key points	136
	Key terms	137
	Further reading	137
6	In-depth Interviews	138
	Robin Legard, Jill Keegan and Kit Ward	
	The in-depth interview	139
	The staging of an interview	144
	Asking questions to achieve breadth and depth	148
	Question formulation	153
	Further techniques for achieving depth	155
	Practical considerations	165
	Key points	168
	Key terms	168
	Further reading	169
7	Focus Groups	170
	Helen Finch and Jane Lewis	
	Features and types of focus group	171
	Group processes and the stages of a focus group	174

	Conducting the discussion	180
	Using the group process: some further strategies	185
	Group composition and size	190
	Practicalities in organising the group	193
	Key points	197
	Key terms	197
	Further reading	198
8	Analysis: Practices, Principles and Processes Liz Spencer, Jane Ritchie and William O'Connor	199
		200
	Traditions and approaches within qualitative analysis Computer-assisted qualitative methods	206
	The key requirements of analytic tools	209
	The analytic hierarchy	213
	Key points	217
	Key terms	217
	Further reading	218
9	Carrying out Qualitative Analysis	219
,	Jane Ritchie, Liz Spencer and William O'Connor	213
	Data management	220
	Descriptive accounts	237
	Explanatory accounts	248
	Analysing group data	257
	Key points	261
	Key terms	262
	Further reading	262
10	Generalising from Qualitative Research	263
	Jane Lewis and Jane Ritchie	
	Definitions of generalisation	264
	Approaches to generalisation	266
	Reliability and validity	270
	Generalising from qualitative data	277
	Key points	284
	Key terms	285
	Further reading	286
11	Reporting and Presenting Qualitative Data	287
	Clarissa White, Kandy Woodfield and Jane Ritchie	
	Challenges facing the qualitative reporter	288
	Forms of research outputs	290
	Writing a qualitative research report	293

viii QUALITATIVE RESEARCH PRACTICE

Displaying qualitative evidence – some general	
features and principles	301
Oral presentations	315
Key points	319
Key terms	320
Further reading	320
References	321
Index	331