

## A Few Key Terms in Qualitative Research

*Access:* entrée into an organization or group; passing through the gatekeeping process

*Authenticity:* credibility of informant and the research, relating to fairness, sophistication of the constructs and process, sophistication of understanding and development of the researcher, and actionable or empowerment capacity

*Case Study:* intensive study of one specific bounded social unit for thorough understanding

*Crystallization:* many sources of data that, when analyzed from multiple perspectives, suggest similar conclusions; transformative extension of triangulation

*Emic:* the participant perspective

*Ethnography:* study of human culture, often with the researcher embedded into the culture or group

*Etic:* the researcher perspective

*Grounded Theory:* a method of analysis wherein the categories and connections emerge from the data

*Key Informant:* Knowledgeable insider willing to share insights and access

*Lived Experience:* first-person account

*Memos:* a part of the analytic process in which the researcher explains coding, defines variables, and justifies next steps in emergent designs

*Purposive Sampling:* nonrandom selection of participants and cases, such as:

- ▶ Contrasting case
- ▶ Critical case
- ▶ Deviant case
- ▶ Negative case
- ▶ Typical case

*Reflexing:* the unfolding process, the researcher interacting with the data

*Saturation:* the point at which evidence suggests all relevant issues have been uncovered

*Thick Description:* description from the perspective of the natural actors in the setting, so someone who is not present experiences the same

*Triangulation:* three or more data sources that provide evidence of the same finding

*Trustworthiness:* the credibility (akin to internal validity), transferability (akin to external validity), dependability (akin to reliability) and confirmability (akin to objectivity) of qualitative research