

RESEARCH IN THE 21ST CENTURY:
DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION
VIA THE INTERNET

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The purpose of this presentation is to describe two Web-based products we developed to disseminate information resulting from a methods project in which we have been involved for the past 4 years. The Qualitative Metasynthesis Methods Project is a study funded for 5 years (NINR R01 NR04907) to develop the analytic and interpretive techniques to conduct qualitative metasynthesis, using women with HIV as the “method case.” We had two goals in undertaking this project: the first was to develop the process of qualitative metasynthesis, and the second was to find innovative ways to communicate both the processes involved in such a project and the results of the metasyntheses conducted in service of developing the techniques. To that end, we have developed and will present our online handbook and our digital library.

The highly interactive online handbook is a summary of the steps we developed to conduct a qualitative metasynthesis project. It includes information on conceiving the research integration project, including formulating the purpose and rationale and fitting the research integration to the resources available to the project; how to search for and retrieve relevant studies, including developing search terms, working with electronic bibliographic databases, and managing information; analyzing reports using our detailed appraisal guide; how to classify studies by their findings as opposed to their stated methodologies; and how to extract and work with the findings, including how best to present the findings.

The Digital Library has been developed with the help of researchers and clinicians who are also members of the Association of Nurses in AIDS Care, and who provided us with 3 rounds of evaluation as we developed it. The Digital Library provides the user with different ways to examine the findings from two of our metasyntheses, on motherhood and stigma. Also a Web-based resource, it allows users to determine what the most common findings were in each of these topical areas, and to find other authors who had similar results. It is meant to provide guidance to clinicians and researchers in its presentation of the contextual factors influencing motherhood and stigma for HIV-positive women.

Participants will be able to explore both Web sites as they visit the poster.