COMP6220
Qualitative Research Methods for Assessing Technology

Introduction
Mark Weal
## Timetable

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<td>Wednesday 12th Dec ASSESSMENT 4pm - Group research proposal (80%)</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Panel!</td>
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<td>Thursday 10th Jan 11am-1pm (room tbc) ASSESSMENT - Panel interviews - individual assessment (20%)</td>
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Qualitative Research Methods
How do we design research

• What questions are we seeking to answer?
• How does our work fit with existing research and increase knowledge?
• What methodologies are appropriate for addressing those questions?
• Who pays for research and how do they decide what to fund?
Funding councils

- You have £100m to give to researchers to carry out research.
  - How do you give it out?
Call for proposals

What should go in them?

• Set out what type of research you want
• Set out eligibility for application
• Set out any priorities you may have
• Set out any scoping in terms of...
  – Money (bids up to £50K)
  – Time (all projects must be under 2 years in length)
  – Collaboration (must have an industry partner)
What do you want to know about the proposal?

- What are the aims?
- What is the methodology?
- How will the methodology applied lead to answering the aims?
- Are there any risks or ethical considerations?
- What is the workplan?
- What research has already been done in this area?
- What resources are needed?
- Why are those resources needed?
- What impact will the research have?
- Who will benefit?
- How will the research be published?
Who is applying for the funding?

• What institution are they affiliated to?
• What is their track record in this research area?
• What projects have they had previously?
• Are they funded to beyond the end of the project?
Mr Palomar

Identifying research methods
Qualitative Research Methods

What methods have you used before?
Methods

• For week 3, in pairs, you are to produce:
  – a brief summary document describing a qualitative research method (3 pages max)
    • Overview
    • Issues
    • Key references
  – Short oral presentation (5 mins max) communicating your findings
Methods

1. Surveys
2. Interviews & Focus groups
3. Diaries
4. Grounded theory
5. Ethnography
6. Case studies
Your Coursework

- Write a funding proposal in answer to specific funding call.
- Design a programme of research using qualitative research methods.
- Defend your proposal at a panel interview session.
The Aging Population
Web Science Fund

The Web Science Institute has established this fund to further the understanding of the Web in the context of aging populations.

The Aging Population  Web Science Fund - priority areas
The Aging Population  Web Science Fund (APWSF) covers a five-year period from 2019 to 2024 to identifying priority areas for research and development. This strategy will help us to actively encourage improvement and innovation.

The priority areas for 2019 are:

• Understanding the role of the Web in the lives older people.
• Understanding the role of the Web in supporting independent living.
• Understanding the role of the Web in social care.
• The use of qualitative mixed-method research methods for understanding the Web.

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Qualitative Research Methods
The Aging Population
Web Science Fund
Project Criteria

The funds can be used for study projects of one year in duration for up to two person years of Research Fellow time. Funds will not be allocated to proposals seeking to develop new technologies. The intention is to focus on developing novel approaches to understanding the Web’s role in the lives of older people.
The Aging Population
Web Science Fund

The criteria that will be used to select projects to be funded are:

• Alignment – with the Funds priority areas as set out above
• Enhancement - of the understanding of the impact of the Web on the lives of older people
• Transferability – across different contexts
• Potential of the project – for further development
• Collaboration
• Evaluation of outcomes and impact - Clear method to evaluate success/outcomes of Project
The Aging Population
Web Science Fund

In your groups, you are to produce a funding bid that meets the following specification.

Your Case for support should include:

- A description of the proposed research and its context (up to 6 sides of A4)
- Work plan (up to 1 side of A4)
- Brief CVs (1 paragraph) for each named investigator

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The Aging Population
Web Science Fund

Description of Proposed Research and its Context
This section (maximum 6 sides of A4) should include:

Background
• Introduce the topic of research and explain its academic and industrial context.
• Demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of past and current work in the subject area in the UK and abroad.

Research Hypothesis and Objectives
• Set out the research idea or hypothesis.
• Explain why the proposed project is of sufficient timeliness and novelty to warrant consideration for funding.
• Identify the overall aims of the project and the individual measurable objectives against which you would wish the outcome of the work to be assessed.

Programme and Methodology
• Detail the qualitative methodologies to be used in pursuit of the research and justify this choice in detail. You should incorporate at least two qualitative methods and explain their relation to each other clearly.
• Describe the programme of work, indicating the research to be undertaken and the milestones that can be used to measure its progress. The detail should be sufficient to indicate the programme of work for each member of the research team. Explain how the project will be managed.

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Deliverables

EOI (Expression of Interest)
In order to give early feedback on proposals, those seeking funding are required to submit a one page EOI indicating the scope of the project, the basic research questions and a brief outline of the research methodology proposed. Feedback will be given to help applicants adjust their research approach where applicable.

Funding Bid
Your funding bid, conforming to the guidelines stated above. To be submitted to the handin machine as a single PDF file. In line with normal funding practice, bids received after the deadline may not be considered.

Assessment Panels
In order to assess the commitment to the proposed research and assess the abilities of the named researchers to understand and carry out the research, a series of short interviews will be conducted by an assessment panel.

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EOIs

Expression of Interest – “The Aging Population Web Science Fund” – 2018

Title of proposed project:

Investigators:

Outline of Project (250 words max):

[Indicating the scope of the project, the basic research questions and a brief outline of the research methodology proposed.]
Deadlines

• EOI submitted
  – Friday 19\textsuperscript{th} October 2018, 16:00
  – (0\% of mark for module, group)

• Funding Bid submitted
  – Wednesday 12\textsuperscript{th} December 2018, 16:00
  – (80\% of mark for module, group)

• Assessment panels
  – Thursday 10\textsuperscript{th} January, (tbc)
  – (20\% of mark for module, individual)
Groups
Methods

1. Surveys  (A)
2. Interviews & Focus groups (B)
3. Diaries  (C)
4. Grounded theory  (D)
5. Ethnography  (E)
6. Case studies  (F)