

Unit 4

This unit provides great perspectives into the qualitative data gathering methodologies including case studies, focus groups, and observations. Case studies appear to be an appropriate method for in-depth exploring individuals or groups, whereas focus groups can elicit conversations about perspectives and ideas (Dawson, 2015; Sim & Waterfield, 2019). However, Runeson & Höst (2009) argue that due to potential researcher bias, case studies are not suited for evaluating cause and effect correlations or generating accurate predictions.

Until now, I have not made a decision on the topic of the capstone project, so I still wonder about how I will implement and choose the data collection mechanism. I am still confused even after submitting the literature review outline for formative review because I think the chosen topic is not suitable as a master's degree capstone project.

References

- Dawson, C. (2015) *Projects in Computing and Information Systems: A Student's Guide*. Harlow: Pearson. Available from:
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- Runeson, P., & Höst, M. (2009) Guidelines for conducting and reporting case study research in software engineering. *Empirical Software Engineering* 14(2): 131–164. DOI:
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10664-008-9102-8>
- Sim, J., & Waterfield, J. (2019) Focus group methodology: Some ethical challenges. *Quality & Quantity* 53(6): 3003–3022. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11135-019-00914-5>.