Empirical studies

Definition: Evaluate

To judge the quality of

1 Empirical vs Experimental

Definition: Empirical

Relying on observation and experiment rather than theory

Definition: Experiment

A study in which an intervention is deliberately controlled to observe its effects

2 Forms of measure

Definition: Quantitative evaluation

Used to determine whether a cause effect relationship exists

- May test the effect of some intervention
- Uses measures based on "counting" scales
- Can employ statistical forms to aid analysis

Definition: Qualitative evaluation

Studies entities in their natural setting, usually through observation:

- Analysis involves interpretation based on explanations
- Recognises that there may be different interpretations

3 Primary or secondary

Definition: Primary study

Directly study the entity of interest by making observations and measurements

Definition: Secondary study

Seek to aggregate the outcomes of many different primary studies

4   The research protocol

A good evaluation process needs to be:

- Objective

- Unbiased

And should avoid "fishing" for results from the outcomes.