e-Portfolio Activity

Research Proposal Review

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Title
- The Gender Pay Gap in the Technology Sector in the UK

Chosen Research Methods

A Systematic Literature Review (SLR) would be the best way for me to do research for my project on the Gender Pay Gap in the UK technology sector. The reading (for example, Boza's six-step model in 2022) describes this method to review current studies in an organised and open way, finding patterns, gaps, and contradictions in the literature.

I might also use parts of thematic analysis to bring together my findings on important topics like occupational segregation, challenges to leadership, and intersectionality.

Data Collection Methods

As the project will focus on secondary data, I will primarily use **documentary analysis** to review:
- **Academic literature**: Peer-reviewed journal articles, reports, and meta-analyses.
- **Industry reports**: Data from sources like the Office for National Statistics (ONS), Tech Nation, and WISE.
- **Policy documents**: UK government reports, the Equality Act 2010, and gender pay gap regulations.

If I were to extend the project, I might also consider semi-structured interviews or questionnaire surveys with professionals in the UK tech sector to gain firsthand insights. However, for this initial review, I will rely on existing sources.

Required Skills to Develop or Enhance

To complete this project successfully, I will need to develop the following skills:
- **Critical Analysis**: The ability to evaluate and compare different studies, identify strengths, weaknesses, and biases, and draw well-supported conclusions.
- **Literature Search Skills**: Learning advanced search techniques across academic databases (e.g., Boolean operators, citation chaining) to find relevant, high-quality sources.
- **Thematic Coding and Synthesis**: Skills in identifying and grouping themes from diverse literature, using tools such as NVivo or Excel if needed.
- **Academic Writing and Referencing**: Presenting findings clearly, adhering to Harvard referencing style, and maintaining an academic tone.
- **Data Interpretation**: Interpreting statistical information (e.g., pay gap percentages, trends over time) and linking data to research questions.
- **Time Management**: Making plans and organising the review process so that it meets deadlines, especially when working with a lot of data from many sources.