

# An Introduction to Qualitative Research Synthesis

Managing the Information Explosion  
in Social Science Research

CLAIRE HOWELL MAJOR and MAGGI SAVIN-BADEN



# Contents

---

<i>List of figures</i>	vii
<i>List of tables</i>	viii
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	x
 Introduction	 1
 <b>PART 1</b>	
<b>Arguing for qualitative research synthesis</b>	<b>7</b>
1 Making the case for qualitative research synthesis	9
2 Comparing qualitative research synthesis with other approaches	23
 <b>PART 2</b>	
<b>Doing qualitative research synthesis</b>	<b>41</b>
3 Designing the synthesis	43
4 Analysing, synthesizing and interpreting studies	56
5 Establishing plausibility in qualitative research synthesis	72
6 Presenting the synthesis	89
 Conclusion	 105

**PART 3**  
**Resources**

**113**

Examples of studies using qualitative research synthesis	115
Executive summaries of qualitative meta-synthesis articles	123
<i>Bibliography</i>	157
<i>References</i>	171
<i>Glossary</i>	179
<i>Index</i>	185