Research Proposal

Research title: Designing a bring your own device (BYOD) initiative for a Bahamian library cadet program

Description of the study: This study is aimed at developing a *bring your own device* initiative for library cadet students who are interested in learning how to use their own technology, but not in a formal or academic setting.

Need for study: A technology study was done by the Associated Press in 2012 regarding the increased ownership of tablets and e-readers by users. The researcher wants to determine if there is a similar trend in the Caribbean islands among students who own these kinds of devices.

Participants: Bahamian high school students in grades 7 through 12 that are active members of a library cadet program.

How will they be selected? Convenience sampling will be used to select students who are currently enrolled in a library cadet program.

How will they be contacted? Participants will be contacted by telephone or through email. Consideration may also be given to the use of social media.

Research Design: Qualitative.
The qualitative research approach will be utilized to explore this study. According to Patton (1990), the "purpose of interviewing is to find out what is in and on someone else's mind" (p. 278). As stated by Patton, "the quality of the information obtained during an interview is largely dependent on the interviewer" (p. 279). The researcher plans to gather data using the informal conversational approach, but will not rely solely on fixed responses from the interviewees. The researcher hopes that responses given can be expanded upon to help the reader understand this phenomenon that is being reported. The interviewer will take notes, survey the participants using Qualtrics and analyze the data when it has been collected. It is anticipated by

the researcher that the information gathered will be organized into categories or themes that are built around the research question. This is how the data will be collected and managed. The researcher has to do extensive reading in the subject area since there may be instances during the analysis of data where important details may run the risk of being excluded. The researcher believes that if pertinent information is excluded from the analysis, then the validity of the conclusions or findings could be jeopardized. Problems that are associated with biases will be addressed as it will be necessary to discuss how techniques were applied and what the interpreted results will demonstrate.

Research questions:

1) What type of web 2.0 tools are suited for a BYOD environment? "This descriptive question will focus on the independent variable". (Creswell, 2014, p. 147).

2) How does exposing students to a BYOD environment support positive digital citizenship? "This descriptive question will focus on the dependent variable." (Creswell, 2014, p. 147).

3) To what degree are utilization of technological devices (i.e. tablets and e-readers) encouraged by parents, teachers, or librarians to promote computing literacy? "This descriptive question will focus on a control variable—the exposure of parents, teachers or librarians to the technology". (Creswell, 2014, p.147).

4) How does BYOD work against critical thinking and research learning in a library cadet training environment?

The above research questions were created by the researcher to capture responses and data conducted from the study and will be useful for reporting the findings or results to the reader. An explanation of qualitative data analysis and other techniques used will be reported for the study.

Description of questions

The types of survey questions (not more than ten questions) that I will require from students surveyed will range from the type of mobile devices owned to how using such devices have improved their skills, competencies, and abilities to perform better in school or otherwise. The format will be open- and closed-ended questions using clear, unbiased and appropriate language. The closed-ended questions will focus on what kind of devices is owned and the brand. The researcher would also like to determine if these devices are used more by males or females; or if there is no difference among the genders. The researcher will also address through reliable and valid questioning whether a BYOD initiative can be successfully implemented for this group of library cadet students within the Bahamian geographic area.

Reference

Creswell, J. W. (2014). *Research design: Qualitative, quantitative and mixed methods approaches* (4th ed.). Los Angeles, CA: Sage.

Patton, M. Q. (1990). *Qualitative evaluation and research methods*. Newbury Park, CA: Sage.