It's all about keeping quiet - using focus group interviews to understand the everyday life of researchers in order to support their research

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It’s all about keeping quiet

USING FOCUS GROUP INTERVIEWS TO UNDERSTAND THE EVERYDAY LIFE OF RESEARCHERS IN ORDER TO SUPPORT THEIR RESEARCH

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Background

By shifted perspectives …

… from the library’s point of view

… to the researchers’ everyday lives & key obstacles in their research processes

We did not want to: evaluate library support services or resources
Schematic model of the research process

✓ To focus on the researchers’ perspectives…
✓ To develop questions…
✓ To categorise and analyse their experiences…

… we decided to use a schematic model of the research process:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Start a research project</th>
<th>Collect material</th>
<th>Process/analyze/write</th>
<th>Communicate results and make data accessible</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Figure 1: The research process, a schematic model: (Voog et al., 2013)
In the focus group interview

The researchers were asked to talk about:
  o how they do their research
  o The obstacles they experience

The role of the moderator was to:
  o introduce themes
  o not be an active part in the discussion
Benefits and challenges with focus group interviews

+ • Free form that sets the agenda
  • Interaction between participants

- • Challenge to keep quiet
  • Some questions may remain unanswered
Shifting back the perspective

The necessity of analysis:

→ To identify different parts of the research process and obstacles

→ To identify different needs for different disciplines

→ To understand the researchers’ experiences in relation to existing research support services
Want to know more?


Thank you for listening!

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