



The 1 + 1 = 1 and 1 + 1 = 3 Integration Formulas in Mixed Methods Research: A Poem Promoting Peaceful and Productive Co-Existence

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Abstract

In their editorial published in the *International Journal of Multiple Research Approaches*, Archibald and Onwuegbuzie (2020) called for the inclusion of poetic representation in mixed methods research. With this in mind, in this editorial, I provide a poetic representation that synthesizes my thoughts regarding the recent formal emergence of two integration formulas, namely, the $1 + 1 = 3$ integration approach (Fetters & Freshwater, 2015) and the $1 + 1 = 1$ integration approach (Onwuegbuzie, 2017; Onwuegbuzie & Hitchcock, 2019). In this editorial, I present only a poem, with no further commentary, in order to ensure that this poem takes center stage. This poem represents an integration of *found poetry* (Prendergast, 2006) and *research poetry* (Faulkner, 2009). Found poetry involves the creation of poems by selecting and (re-)arranging existing text from research works, emphasizing themes or ideas present in the source text in order to create new meaning. In contrast, research poetry involves integrating academic research and scholarly content into poetic compositions in order to present the concept of integration in mixed methods research in a creative, accessible, understandable, and engaging manner through poetry. This poem, which also can be classified as a literature-voiced poem (i.e., stemming from literature; Prendergast, 2009), represents a quatrain (Chisholm, 2014)—specifically, a poem with four-line stanzas that involve a traditional rhyme wherein the end of every pair of lines within each stanza rhymes (i.e., an AABB rhyme scheme, wherein each letter indicates which lines rhyme). These stanzas do not have a common metric, with the number of feet per line varying—hopefully, yielding what Lahman et al. (2011) referred to as “good enough research poetry” (p. 894) that is characteristic of novice research poets like me. I hope you find the research poem meaningful.

Keywords: *mixed methods research; mixed research; integrated research; 1 + 1 = 1 integration approach; 1 + 1 = 3 integration approach; good enough poetry; found poetry, research poetry; literature-voiced poem*

The 1 + 1 = 1 and 1 + 1 = 3 Integration Formulas in Mixed Methods Research: A Poem Promoting Peaceful and Productive Co-Existence

In the world of research, where knowledge takes flight,
Two professors stood, their vision so bright.
Mike Fetters and Dawn Freshwater were their names,
In the 2015 *Journal of Mixed Methods Research*, they staked their claims.

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Within *JMMR*, they boldly spoke their aim,
Addressing the mixed methods community with their claim.
Their voices in harmony, they beckoned with grace,
To embrace the “Integration Challenge” that researchers face.

“Moving forward,” they urged the mixed methods field,
To focus on integration, a story that this would yield.
Qualitatively described, to ensure all understood,
To integrate quan and qual “parts,” and create something good.

They developed an equation, with numbers bold and clear,
 $1 + 1$, they ventured, is not as it appears.
In their equation, they proclaimed, the essence to unfold,
Qualitative plus quantitative, creates results untold.

With Professor Bryman’s wisdom from years gone by,
Barriers to integration, they aimed to untie.
A field of inquiry, where $1 + 1$ might be,
Not just two, but a threefold synergy.

Quantitatively framed, a formula they’d found,
“ $1 + 1 = 3$,” a logic that is sound.
A “value added” outcome that they’d attest,
In the integration of approaches, this strategy is best.

“ $1 + 1 = 3$,” they boldly state,
A formula unique, a concept they rate,
Qualitative and quantitative unite as a force,
Creating a synergy that takes a new course.

In empirical studies, they’d watch with care,
For insights and articulations, a knowledge share.
Their call to action, for all to heed,
To plan with intention, where integration leads.

A call to conduct research with care and grace,
To leverage integration in every case.
In every facet, from conception to display,
Integration’s the key, they firmly convey.

Opportunity abounds, in virtually all domains,
From one study to the next, integration shouldn’t wane.
Breaking down borders, pushing the line,
In Onwuegbuzie’s *radical middle*, $1 + 1 = 3$ should shine.



In *JMMR*'s pages, their words still reside,
A beacon of guidance, a journey to stride,
As mixed methods researchers, we heed their call,
To craft integration that's greater than all.

Their call was clear, in every field and strand,
Integrate with care, in the radical middle stand.
Through theory, design, and analysis's art,
To find new ways, to push research's cart.

But beyond the formula they'd previously shared,
In Jamaica's 2017 MMIRA keynote, another formula flared.
Professor Onwuegbuzie's conceptualization took flight,
A new integration, full and bright.

In this Jamaica keynote address,
Professor Onwuegbuzie excitedly did express.
 $1 + 1 = 1$, a new way to see,
Integration's power, potentially a deeper decree.

He, in Jamaica, with words that were spoken,
Lit a path where the boundaries were broken.
With Professor Hitchcock, they did conceive,
A full integration, they dared to believe.

From this MMIRA keynote in Jamaica's glow,
To *IJMRA*'s pages, where knowledge flows.
Professors Onwuegbuzie and Hitchcock's stand,
Further developed the $1 + 1 = 1$ land.

In the *International Journal of Multiple Research Approaches*,
They furthered the concept, like scholarly coaches.
Professors Onwuegbuzie and Hitchcock, they led,
To explore full integration, where knowledge would spread.

In *IJMRA*'s pages, the concept was spread,
By Professors Onwuegbuzie and Hitchcock, keeping ahead.
No longer a dichotomy, but continua's embrace,
Full integration's potential, a new research space.

With continua, they replaced the old divide,
A seamless blend turning the tide.
 $1 + 1 = 1$, a deeper integration's call,
An integration approach for one and all.



Like building portfolios, in investment's sphere,
A parallel analogy, so clear.
Like building portfolios, investing with care,
Considering all information, the answer is there.

Quantitative and qualitative, no longer apart,
 $1 + 1 = 1$, representing a fresh start.
Full(er) integration, a lesson to derive,
Efficiency in integration, wherein meta-inferences arrive.

A complement, not a replacement they say,
To $1 + 1 = 3$, in its own way.
Quantitative-qualitative divide laid to rest,
Synchism prevails, integration's best.

The piecemeal process, they did decree,
Can omit important synergy, you see.
 $1 + 1 = 1$, full integration's plea,
For complex questions, the path to clarity.

$1 + 1 = 3$, a partial blend's delight,
Useful, yet it might not reach the height.
But $1 + 1 = 1$, a new frontier,
Full(er) integration, for questions clear.

"Put the mixed back into" research's lore,
No false divisions, let our research skills soar.
With $1 + 1 = 1$, a paradigm anew,
Researchers break free, to discoveries pursue.

No dichotomous bounds, no borders here,
A mindset transformed, dispelling fear,
From QL/QN divide, to assemblages in line,
Answering questions, a unity we define.

So, in the world of mixed methods, we see,
Two formulas for integration, researchers are free.
To ponder and choose, as the questions unfurl,
The $1 + 1 = 3$ or $1 + 1 = 1$, in the research world.

So, as we explore the mixed methods' domain,
Both formulas serve to enrich our terrain.
 $1 + 1 = 3$ and $1 + 1 = 1$, side by side,
In mixed methods research, they both do reside.



In the world of mixed methods, both formulas have a role,
The choice in research, it's our ultimate goal.
To Professor Johnson's words, we should give our hand,
"Not either/or, but both/and."

Both formulas have value for answering complex questions at hand,
In the world of mixed methods, they help us understand.
So, let's embrace both formulas, in this research land,
For in integration's beauty, we all stand.

Let us choose the path that the questions require,
 $1 + 1 = 1$ or 3 , to inspire.
In the mixed methods' world, meaning making we should find,
Integration's dance, in every researcher's mind.

So, whether $1 + 1 = 3$ or $1 + 1 = 1$,
In mixed methods research, the journey's begun.
Integration's the key, in the scholar's hand,
For both approaches guide us, as we understand.

So, in the realm of integration, let's be clear,
Both " $1 + 1 = 3$ " and " $1 + 1 = 1$ " we should hold dear.
In mixed methods research, where questions reside,
These integration approaches, as our compass, will guide.



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