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## Research skills in surveyors: design of a self-assessment questionnaire

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## Objective and Methods

**To assess the research potential of surveyors from Andalusian Agency for Healthcare Quality (Andalusia, Spain) by means of a self-assessment tool on research skills (research capability and activity).**

1. Designing a self-assessment questionnaire on research skills.
2. Running a pre-test of the questionnaire among in-house staff from the organisation.
3. Applying the questionnaire to personnel from the organisation (n: 30).
4. Data collection and analysis of results.


**Research Capability:**

- *Research-related functions:* study design, literature review, critical reading, collecting data, writing reports, presenting results.
- *Proficiency in documental resources and bibliography management tools.*

**Research Activity:**

Post-graduate and post-doctorate training, attendance of congresses and participation in international projects, responsibilities such as principal investigator, publication of articles or other materials.

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## Results

**RESEARCH POTENTIAL** among interviewees was seen to be highly variable  
Meanscore: **8.5** Interquartile range: **13.32**

**RESEARCH CAPABILITY**  
Meanscore: **6.19** (from 0 to 10) (SD ± **3.37**)  
Affirmative responses are concentrated in:


- Information searching through the Internet (100%)
- Writing up contents for a congress to be held in their mother tongue (90.3%)
- Data collection and analysis (80.6%).

Meanwhile, those aspects that need strengthening refer to: article writing (**48.4%**) and oral expression in foreign languages (**38.7%**).

**7 out of 10** documental resources and bibliography management tools in the questionnaire had been used by **30%** of the interviewees. A highlight here was Pubmed, used by **64.5%** of the subjects of the study.

**RESEARCH ACTIVITY**  
Contributions to congresses held in the home country (**90.3%**) far outnumbered those to foreign congresses (**41.9%**).

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## Conclusions

- (1) The use of a self-assessment questionnaire on research skills in surveyors from an organisation aimed at enhancing healthcare quality helps professionals to identify improvement areas, which, in this case, were those referring to acquiring knowledge and skills for the various stages of the research process.
- (2) Applying the self-assessment questionnaire helped the interviewee surveyors to reflect on the significance of research in organisations devoted to healthcare quality and accreditation programmes.

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