Research as Inquiry:

Being Mindful of Retractions

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What is a retraction?

As defined by the Oxford English Dictionary:

Withdrawal, cancellation.

The action of withdrawing a statement, accusation, etc., which is now admitted to be erroneous or unjustified; disavowal; recantation; an instance of this; a statement making such a withdrawal.

Reasons for Retractions


Cited 13x


Cited 71x
How do we find out about retractions?

- Journals publish a notice
- Retraction Watch [blog]
- News sources (e.g., Wakefield’s autism study)
- If everything goes well... Notice is eventually featured in library databases or aggregators
Discovering Retractions while using Library tools
Discovering Retractions while using Library tools
Teaching users about retractions

ACRL’s Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education

Research As Inquiry Dispositions

- maintain an open mind and a critical stance;
- value persistence, adaptability, and flexibility and recognize that ambiguity can benefit the research process;
What can go wrong?

Authors used wrong dataset in study on shock therapy, exercise in depression

A real shame: Psychology paper retracted when data behind problematic findings disappear

Lost your data? Blame an earthquake
Questions?
Communication with vendors

- Ebsco
- JSTOR