

Users' Perspectives on German Plain Language Summaries of Psychological Meta-Analyses ("KLARtexte") - A Focus Group Study

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Registration Metadata

This preregistration follows the form for the preregistration of qualitative studies developed by Haven et al. (2020).

Title

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Description

To communicate research findings in a lay-friendly and scientifically correct way, plain language summaries (PLS) have been introduced. PLS are short summaries of scientific publications using lay-friendly language and accessible formatting. While the need for PLS is widely recognized, only rare evidence on effective criteria is available, and guidelines on how to write them differ considerably. In psychology, there is a particular lack of evidence-based guidance for PLS. Project "PLan Psy" aims at developing evidence-based guidelines for writing PLS of psychological meta-analyses. For this purpose, various empirical studies are conducted, including a qualitative study on users' aims and expectations when reading PLS which is preregistered here.

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Subjects

Social and Behavioral Sciences, Arts and Humanities, Life Sciences, Medicine and Health Sciences

Keywords

science communication, plain language summaries, psychological research, meta-analysis, focus groups, user experience; empowerment

Study Information

Research Aim

The aim of our project is to develop evidence-based guidelines for writing PLS of psychological meta-analyses in German language (called “KLARtexte”). A systematic literature review and three large experimental studies have already been conducted. In science communication, as with all communication, two sides need to be considered- a transmitter and a receiver. The aim of this qualitative study is to learn more about the “receiving” side of communication on psychological research, i.e., the target group. Therefore, the aim of this study is to understand. Target group for *KLARtexte* are laypersons interested in psychological topics as well as professionals applying and/or communicating psychological knowledge in their daily practice. We aim to explore users’ perspectives, to find out more about their needs, aims, and expectations when reading *KLARtexte*. From the findings, we expect to gain more insights into the potential of the lay-friendly communication of psychological evidence for everyday life and professional practice and about users’ perspective on how *KLARtexte* should be written in order to meet their needs.

Research Questions

1. Aims and Usefulness: What are the aims and benefits of reading *KLARtexte* from the users’ point of view?
2. Criteria: How should *KLARtexte*, from the user’s point of view, be designed in order to be useful?

Anticipated Duration

Study start date: 02/2022; study end date: 08/2022

Design Plan

Study Design

Focus group study

Sampling and case selection strategy

We will conduct 4 focus groups with 5-9 participants each. There will be 2 focus groups with participants from the adult general population who are interested in psychological topics ("laypersons group"), and 2 focus groups with science communicators and psychologists working as consultants and/or therapists ("practitioners group").

We will recruit participants via online platforms, email distribution lists and social media channels. The total sample size is expected to be at least 20 participants (min. 5 participants in 4 focus groups).

Inclusion criteria for participants are:

- For all participants: German language skills at native speaker level, age 18 years and older
- For participants in the "laypersons group": no degree in psychology, but interest in psychological research
- For participants in the "practitioners groups": professional involvement with science communication (including psychological topics) or degree in psychology and professional activity in a psychological and/or educational practice context

Data Collection

Data source and data type

Data are verbatim transcriptions of interview auditory recordings. Any person-related information will be anonymized.

Data collection methods

Data will be collected in focus group interviews (i.e., moderated group discussions with interview guide).

Data collection tools, instruments or plans

The interview guide can be found in the Appendix of this preregistration.

Stopping criteria

When enough participants (5-9) for each of the 4 focus groups have successfully been included, participant recruitment will be stopped. The focus group interviews will last 90-120 minutes.

Analysis Plan

Data analysis approach

Data analysis will be based on qualitative content analysis according to Kuckartz & Rädiker (2022) using a deductive-inductive categorization approach.

Data analysis process

Two researchers (ms, cb) will independently code the interviews deductively, using an initial coding system based on the main categories from the systematic review by Stoll et al. (2021). Additional categories and subcategories will be developed inductively. This process will be used to develop a codebook based on the initial main categories as well as the newly added categories and subcategories. The codebook will be developed by the two researchers (ms, cb) who performed the data review in cooperation with all study authors. Transcription and data analysis will be carried out in MAXQDA.

Credibility strategies

To ensure the credibility of the data analysis and the methodological integrity, we will have different researchers (ms, cb) review the data. Consensus will be built among all study authors. Moreover, all results are discussed by all study authors.

By relying on evidence from our own systematic literature review for our first set of coding categories and adapting it to the data, we endeavor to base our analysis on existing theoretical evidence while also exploiting the potential of the individual response data of research participants.

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Appendix: Interview Guide

1. Warm-up – Psychologische Informationen allgemein

Für welche psychologischen Themen oder Informationen interessieren Sie sich besonders?

Mit welchen Quellen informieren Sie sich?

Welche Erfahrungen haben Sie mit Informationen zu psychologischen Themen bisher gemacht?/Sind Sie zufrieden mit den genannten Angeboten?

Stimulus – 3 KLARtexte

2. KLARtexte – Erster Eindruck

Was ist Ihr erster Eindruck?/Was ist Ihnen aufgefallen?

Was an den KLARtexten gefällt Ihnen gut?

Warum? Konkretes Textbeispiel?

Was gefällt Ihnen nicht so gut?

Warum? Konkretes Textbeispiel?

3. Ziele und Nutzen aus Perspektive der Nutzer:innen

Warum/mit welchem Ziel würden Sie einen solchen KLARtext lesen?

Welche Folgen hat das Lesen des Textes für Sie?/Welche Schlussfolgerung ziehen Sie für sich aus dem Text?

Inwiefern könnten solche Kurzzusammenfassungen psychologischer Forschung für Sie hilfreich sein?

Wann würden Sie KLARtexte lesen?

4. Charakteristika und Kriterien aus Perspektive der Nutzer:innen

Wie sollte der Text gestaltet und präsentiert werden, damit er für Sie nützlich ist?

Welche Merkmale sollte der Text nicht haben?

Inwiefern werden diese Merkmale von den KLARtexten erfüllt?

Konkretes Textbeispiel?

Welche dieser Merkmale werden von KLARtexten nicht erfüllt?

Konkretes Textbeispiel?

5. Abschluss

Würden Sie KLARtexte weiterempfehlen? Wenn ja, an wen?

Gibt es etwas, über das wir noch nicht gesprochen haben, was aber aus Ihrer Sicht noch wichtig wäre?