How Visual/Pictorial Representation could be Useful for some Aspect of a Research Study

Visual and pictorial representations are commonly used in research studies, defined as graphs or images aiding the understanding and accessibility of an article. These kinds of representations are useful for studies by making large amounts of data more presentable, representing abstract results that would be difficult to include otherwise, and increasing the recall and memorization of relevant information from research studies.

Visual representation is essential to compressing and displaying large amounts of data. Graphs and tables can summarize groups of statistics that would be extremely difficult to translate into sentences and show complex phenomena with ease (Wainer 1992). This allows research studies to compile and reference their results or relevant data that would have been arduous to present otherwise. Reader understanding is greatly increased by this, as these graphs are much easier to comprehend than massive amounts of text attempting to explain data.

Another crucial use of pictorials is the representation of abstract references and findings. Visual aids are significantly better at showing these ‘architectural’ findings that cannot necessarily be explained through text properly, and reducing the possible mistakes in the perception of the data (Wainer 1992). Using visual aids to represent fMRI results or any of the various other methods of recording data from the brain could reduce the possibility of text being misunderstood and results being misinterpreted.

Aside from compiling data, visual representation has been shown to increase reader memory of relevant information. Patient’s recall of complex, medical information can be greatly improved by the use of visual aids (Kessels 2003). With research essays containing experimental or observational results, these aids can improve memory of relevant information and allow readers to better understand the study as a whole. Visual aids are especially effective with low-literacy individuals (Kessels 2003). If research studies try to reference complex concepts and semantics, visual aids could greatly help people with weak literal skills to understand them.

In conclusion, the use of visual aids is greatly beneficial to the understanding of research studies with their ability to represent large amounts of data effectively, display abstract results and concepts, and increase readers memory of relevant information from the study. All these positives benefit the understanding and accessibility of information from studies.

References:
