

# Research in Action Podcast Instructor Guide

Use the following episode description, learning objectives, guiding questions and activity suggestions to more easily include “Research in Action” podcast episodes as a supplemental resource for your course.

# Heather Roberts on Researching without a PhD [00:00-34:23]

Research in Action - Episode 89

---

## Podcast and Episode Information

“Research in Action” is a weekly podcast about topics and issues related to research in higher education featuring experts across a range of disciplines.

On this episode of the podcast, the guest is Heather Roberts, Coordinator for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in College of Forestry and Information Manager for Landscape Ecology, Modeling, Mapping and Analysis (LEMMA) collaborative research group at Oregon State University. Heather Roberts has worked as a database administrator, GIS analyst and programmer at OSU on the Landscape Ecology, Modeling, Mapping and Analysis team since 2006. She performs a variety of tasks related to developing highly detailed models of forest vegetation across large multi-ownership landscapes. She completed her Bachelor's degree at the University of Oregon, majoring in Computer and Information Science and Environmental Studies. She was appointed as the College's first Coordinator for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in July 2017.

*Segment One* [00:00-12:27] - In this segment, Heather shares her pathway to a research position without earning a PhD.

*Segment Two* [12:28-22:37] - In this segment, Heather shares some best practices of database administration.

*Segment Three* [22:38-34:23] - In this segment, Heather shares about her most recent career shift into leading a diversity and inclusion initiative.

*Bonus Clip* [00:00-04:13]: Heather Roberts's Favorite Books for Professional Development

Show notes and a transcript for this episode can be found at:

<http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/research/podcast/e89/>

## Learning Outcomes

By listening to this episode, students will be able to:

- Provide an example of internal and external data documentation
- Describe the purpose of data documentation
- Review recommendations regarding data documentation
- Discuss benefits to creating a professional development plan

## Guiding Questions for Listening

- How does Heather Roberts describe she was able to combine her programming and database skills with her work in forestry?
- What does Heather Roberts discuss were some of the decision-making factors of whether or not to pursue additional schooling?
- How does Heather Roberts describe the process for designing and implementing systems for the documentation of data?
- What are some examples of internal and external data documentation?
- What are some of Heather Roberts's recommendations regarding data documentation?
- What does Heather Roberts share allowed her discover and develop her leadership capabilities?
- According to Heather Roberts, what were some of the benefits that came out of creating a professional development plan?
- What does Heather Roberts share are some of her favorite books on professional development? (See also, Bonus Clip)

## Possible Activities

- Ask students to visit the show notes for this episode (<http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/research/podcast/e89/>) and look at an additional resource that is linked in connection with this episode. Students can write a short review of that resource to share with their peers.
- Ask students to visit the show notes for this episode (<http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/research/podcast/e89/>) and post an additional resource connected to the content of the episode in the comments section.
- Have students share questions that are raised for them based on the content of this episode. What would they ask Heather Roberts if they could?

## Suggested Citation (APA, 6th edition)

Linder, K. (Producer/host). (2017, December 11). *Heather Roberts on Researching without a PhD*. [Audio podcast]. Retrieved from <http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/research/podcast/e89/>

---

## Notes

## About the Research in Action Podcast

---

“Research in Action” (RIA) is a podcast about topics and issues related to research in higher education featuring experts across a range of disciplines. Episodes are posted weekly and include guest interviews and occasional solo episodes. Guests are from a range of higher education institutions and share their expertise on qualitative, quantitative and mixed methods as well as their personal experiences as researchers, research and writing practices, organizational and productivity strategies, and much more. Some weeks, bonus content will also be posted.

“Research in Action” is hosted by [Dr. Katie Linder](#), research director for Oregon State University Ecampus.

Visit the podcast website to view [show notes and transcripts for each episode](#), explore our [episode guide](#), learn more about how to [contact us](#), or [suggest a future guest or topic](#).

You may subscribe to the [“Research in Action” RSS feed](#) or access the podcast via [iTunes](#), [Soundcloud](#) or [Stitcher](#).

“Research in Action” is also listed on [MERLOT](#).

The “Research in Action” podcast is a resource funded by Oregon State University Ecampus – ranked top ten in the nation for online education two years running by U.S. News & World Report. OSU Ecampus has more than 45 degree programs and more than 1,000 classes online.

## Contact

Katie Linder, Ph.D.  
Director of Research  
Oregon State Ecampus  
541-737-4629  
[kathryn.linder@oregonstate.edu](mailto:kathryn.linder@oregonstate.edu)

## Creative Commons License



This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International License.