DE VOS AS (ed) 1997:

Research at Grass Roots : A Primer for the caring professions. Pretoria: Van Schalk

The combination of this new research textbook with Johann Mouton's *Understanding of Social Research* is the solution for research in the caring professions or social sciences. *Research at grass Roots* presents both quantitative and qualitative approaches while it places equal emphasis on both paradigms.

The focus of Section A is on research in the caring professions as a social science. Basic, applied and participatory action research and a new view of intervention research are reiterated as a typology of research goals eminently suited to research in the caring professions. This first section introduces research in general with seven chapters on the nature of research in the caring professions, ethical aspects, introduction to research, selection of a researchable topic, problem formulation, general introduction to research design and writing a research proposal.

Section B focuses on professional research from a quantitative approach with nine chapters on conceptualisation and operationalisation, selection of a research design, data collection methods, the pilot study, sampling and sampling methods and data analysis of univariate data.

The focus of Section C is on qualitative approaches with chapters on qualitative designs, grounded theory methodology, participant observation, unstructured interviewing, focus group interviews and data analysis in qualitative research.

Section D focuses on a combined quantitative-qualitative approach. Evaluation of research and the writing of a research research report are also covered.

This textbook is probably more effective for research education on a post-graduate level, but undergraduate students should also find it easy to understand the book.

Prof. Annatjie Botes
Department of Nursing Science
Rand Afrikaans University