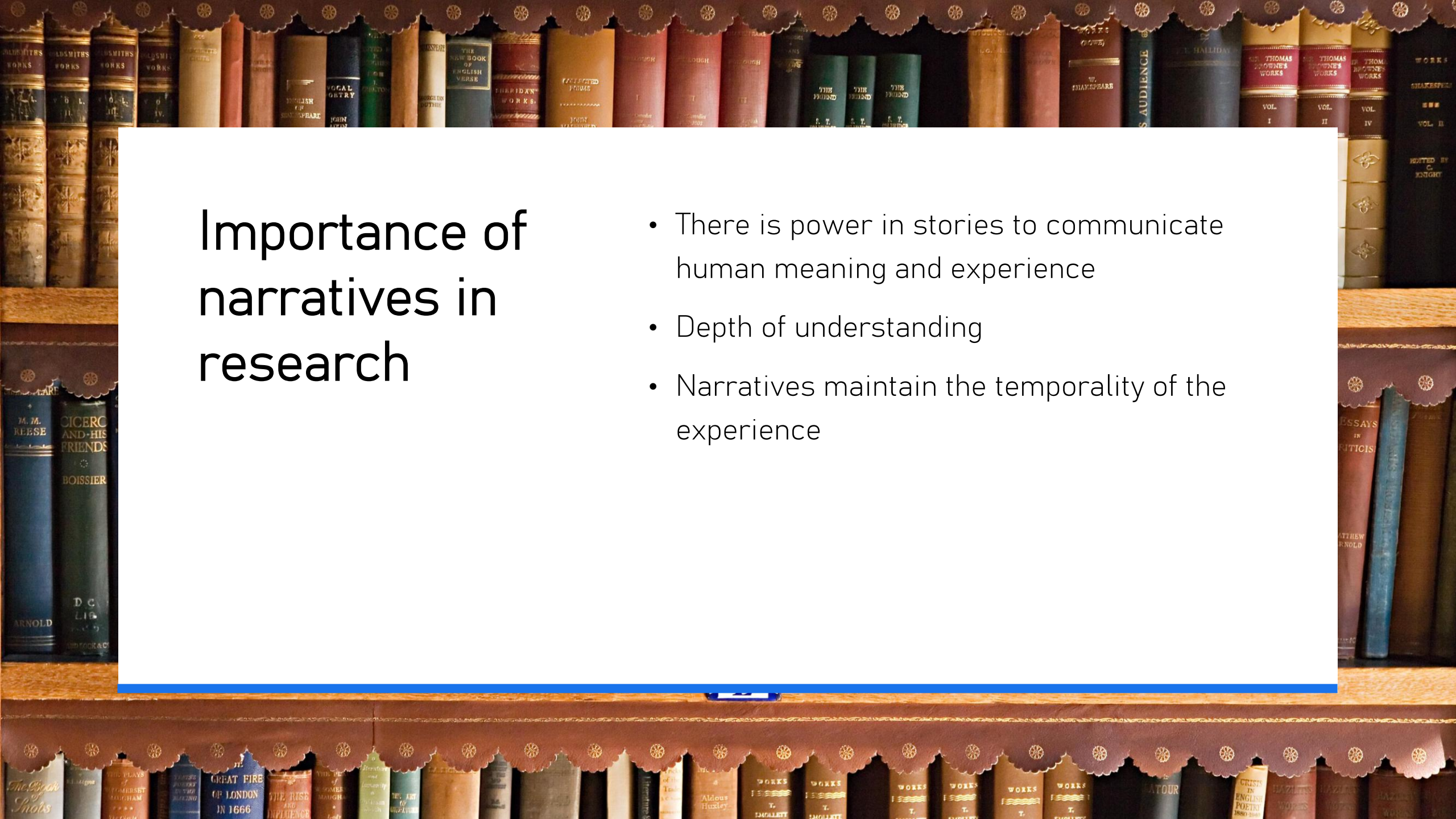


Understanding home deathcare through narratives

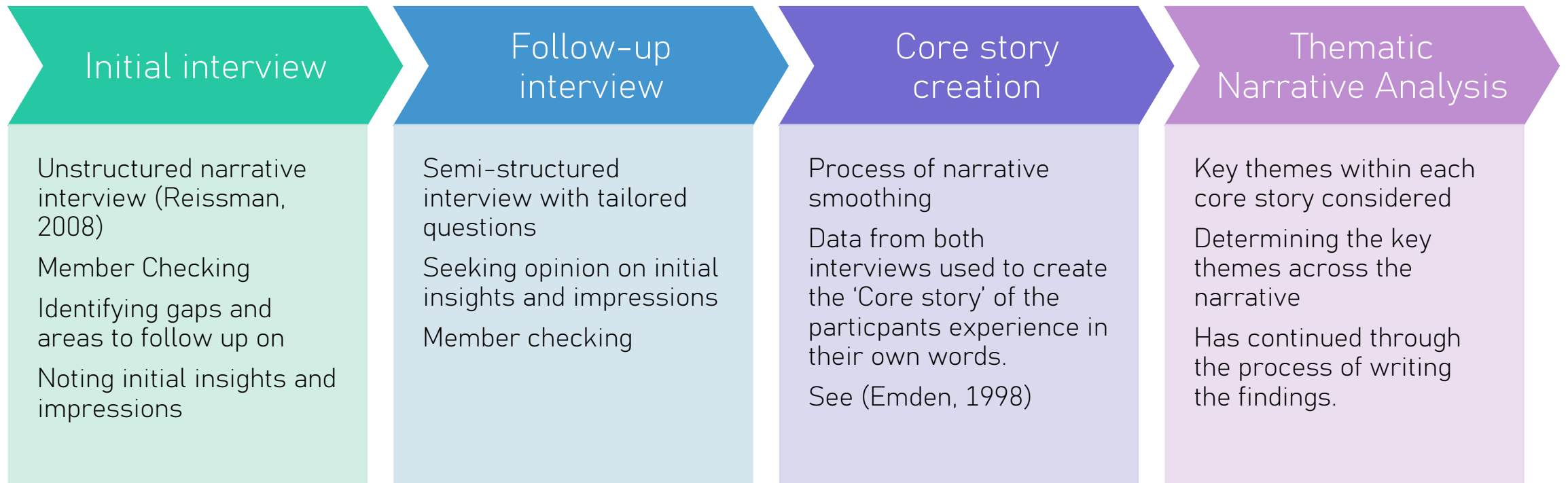
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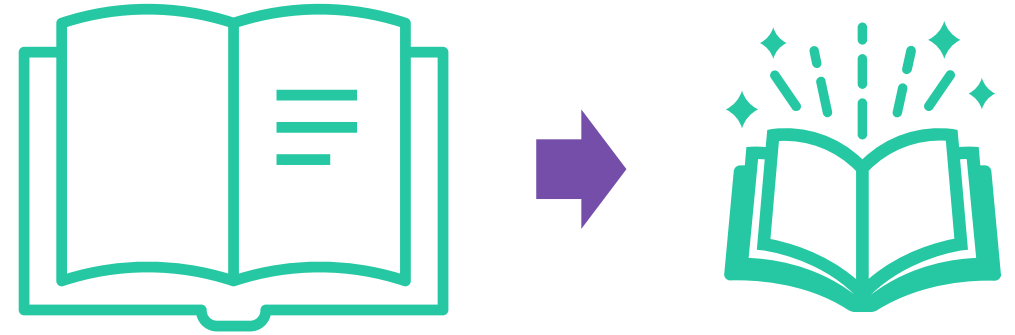
Importance of narratives in research

- There is power in stories to communicate human meaning and experience
- Depth of understanding
- Narratives maintain the temporality of the experience

Project summary



Core story creation



- Immerse in text – lots of re-reads (at least three)
- Delete all interviewer questions and comments
- Delete all words that detract from the key idea of the sentence or group of sentences. Delete repetition from across 2 interviews
 - At least 3 rounds needed – somewhat akin to editing while trying to have minimal impact on the meaning/ importance of sentiment of what is said.
- Identify initial impressions of themes
- Move fragments of the story into chronological order/ Labov's narrative structure i.e. orientation first, evaluation near end.
- Narrative smoothing – making the text readable and engaging.



Thematic Narrative Analysis

- Began after 1st interview with initial impressions and continued through writing up
- Narrative themes are about the thematic thread/pattern through the whole story or set of stories rather than any phrase or section of text
- E.g. Home deathcare in the narratives
 - Kept the deceased in the world of the living making visible the process of death
 - Enabled participants to make sense of the transition of the deceased from a person to a body
 - Above all was an act of care continuing beyond death

A wooden surface with colorful geometric blocks (blue, green, yellow, red, pink, purple) and wooden pins (dark wood, light wood) scattered across it. The blocks are arranged in a somewhat chaotic pattern, and the pins are standing upright. The background is a close-up of the wood grain.

Challenges

- Dwelling in the emotional depth
- No clear steps to follow
- Shear volume of data

What I'd do differently

- Put in place emotional supports earlier e.g. clinical supervision or peer support groups
- Have participants review the core stories rather than the transcripts (much easier to read)
- Potentially fewer participants for the time-scale of the project, a bigger gap between interviews or outsourcing transcription
 - Constant shifts between transcribing, preparing for and conducting second interviews meant they weren't always as well thought out or the questions considered as much as I would have liked meaning there are still some gaps in the data.

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