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Practical Research: Planning And Design (10th Edition)



Synopsis

Written in uncommonly engaging and elegant prose, *Practical Research: Planning and Design* is a "do-it-yourself, understand-it-yourself" manual designed to help students in any discipline understand the fundamental structure of quality research and the methodical process that leads to valid and reliable results. The authors emphasize two things: 1) that quality research demands planning and design; and, 2) how research projects can be executed effectively and professionally. This text guides the reader, step-by-step, from the selection of a problem, through the process of conducting authentic research, to the preparation of a completed report, with practical suggestions based on a solid theoretical framework and sound pedagogy. With broad coverage applicable to any discipline, *Practical Research* is valuable to students planning to conduct their own research projects as well as to anyone wanting to participate in thoughtful, methodical evaluation of published research reports.

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Customer Reviews

"I wanted to thank you (and Dr. Leedy) for *Practical Research*! Home Run!Bravo!Kudos!Woo Hoo! You have produced the BEST text ever on practical research AND writing a dissertation. Not only will your work help graduate students understand and navigate the research process, it will also streamline the entire dissertation journey and ease the load for my committee members."

Practical Research is a comprehensive and practical guide to research methodology. Suited for

self-instruction, this easy-to-read manual guides the beginning researcher, step by step, through the entire research process with practical suggestions. This "do-it-yourself, understand-it-yourself" approach is designed to help research students understand the fundamental structure of quality research in any discipline including: Accounting • Agriculture • Anthropology • Architecture • Art Education • Behavioral Research • Biology • Business Administration • Business Communication • Business Education • Business Law • Chemistry • Child and Family Studies • Civil/Construction Technology • Clothing and Textiles • Communications • Computer Information Systems • Counseling • Criminal Justice • Criminology • Decision Science • Economics • Education • Electronic Technology • English • Environmental Technology • Foods and Nutrition • Foreign Languages • Geography • Geology/Oceanography • Government • Health Sciences • History • Hospitality Careers • Insurance • Journalism • Library Science • Literature • Management • Marketing • Mathematics • Mechanical/Industrial Technology • Minority Studies • Music/Musicology • Nursing • Nutrition • Philosophy • Physical Education • Physics/Astronomy • Political Science • Psychology • Real Estate • Religion • Sociology • Social Work • Speech/Speech Therapy • Taxation • Technical Trades • Theater • Theology • Urban Studies

I ordered this book a couple of months ago because it was required for one of my doctoral courses on educational research methodology. At first, I was a bit shocked at the high price but after having read it, I can honestly say that this book was worth every penny I paid for it! In my opinion, the best thing about this book is that it is written in clear and direct language, which is very important because research is a highly complex and often confusing subject. I can honestly say that as a fairly recent doctoral student (I'm currently in my fifth course), this book greatly assisted me in understanding each step of the research process, and it also helped me grasp the difference between the paradigms of quantitative and qualitative research (along with their benefits and limitations). It also has an informative (although concise) chapter on mixed methods research, which I found especially useful. I also really love that the book has some very, very helpful exercises at the end of some chapters, which helps the reader gauge how well they understood some of the key research concepts throughout. I did all of these exercises, and I loved them because it not only confirmed that I had grasped the important concepts, but it also helped me engage with the text in a kind of hands on way. Another great thing about this book is that it has a lot of tips, checklists, visuals, and examples throughout, which really helped me understand the material better. My only

wish is that the pages were thicker and that the font size was bigger, as I tend to get eye strain if I look at small letters for too long. However, I still gave this book 5 stars because it is the clearest and most well-written research book I have ever come across (I own several others as a result of my master's degree, which were far more confusing to understand!). All in all, I'd say that this book is a must for any novice educational researcher, who wishes to gain a solid understanding of the basics of good research.

This book includes a good portion of information, so I am very glad I bought it for class. It has the formats for proposal writing in it, which is extremely helpful, and I will most likely keep it long after the class ends. It was cheaper than buying the 11th edition, and seems almost the same. The only difference is that some chapters are arranged in a different order than the 11th edition. It seems to have the same information though!

Excellent if not often a bit dry and abecedarian. This could easily serve as a undergraduate and graduate refresher on basic research. It is sometimes a cumbersome read but definitely provides the needed pragmatic details for understanding research and planning a research project.

The author speaks in easy to understand plain language. For a subject that could be potentially boring and dull, the author does a great job of brining humor into his writing. The occasional first person and 2nd person point of view is refreshing. It is a nice change from the traditional textbook read. Great information that can be applied to many aspects of life other than sciences.

This is a comprehensive and practical guide to research methodology. Practical Research: Planning and Design is presented in five parts. Part One, The Fundamentals, includes the basics; what research is and what it is not, how research is used, the general tools for research and how to use them. Part Two, Focusing Your Research Efforts, details how to identify the problem before starting the research project, the sources that are available and how to apply them, developing a plan for the research and preparing a research proposal. Part Three, Qualitative Research Methodologies, outlines the guidelines for conducting a qualitative research including interviews, and preparing a historical research using written and computer records. Part Four, Quantitative Research Methodologies, provides a practical application for descriptive research including the development and use of the questionnaire, the various types of designs and their application, and the statistical techniques for analyzing quantitative data. Part Five, Preparing the Research Report, explores the

technical details needed to develop the style, format, and organization of any research report, initializing, planning, organizing, presentation, graphics, and preparing the report with a checklist for a critique of the report. Practical Research is not a large book, yet it is very thorough and to the point. Leedy and Ormond wrote Practical Research: Planning and Design in simple language with practical examples throughout. An advantage for the reader is quality of information for brevity. It makes the subject matter very accessible to the average reader. It contains many helpful hints and checklists to make the learning process easier. It directs you to a companion website that contains practice tests that can be used to gauge what has been learned. It includes the useful tools for research, identifies how to choose a problem, provides reference on how to identify and review-related literature, and includes statistical techniques for looking at the accumulated data. Chapter Six looks at the common reasons for project bids to be rejected. Throughout the entire book practical advice is provided about how to overcome various problems as well as alternate sources of advice and information. It provides the means to obtain and maintain a global perspective on any subject that you wish to research.

Interesting, very readable, definitive. The authors have taught this topic at the university level for over 30 years. It shows in the clarity of thought and numerous examples presented. This serves well as a text for a masters or doctoral level dissertation preparation course(s). It addresses the necessary rigor and the practical considerations of research. Quantitative, qualitative, and mix-mode research is covered. Many texts only cover quantitative research methodologies. Highly recommended for those new to research and those seeking to extend their knowledge of research methodologies.

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