Detailed Contents

Analytic Contents of Research Techniques  xiii
Preface  xvii
  Purpose  xvii
  Audience  xvii
  Format  xviii
  Outline of Chapters  xix
Companion Website  xxiii
Acknowledgments  xxiv
About the Authors  xxv

PART I  PRELIMINARY CONSIDERATIONS  1

Chapter 1  The Selection of a Research Approach  3
  The Three Approaches to Research  3
  Three Components Involved in an Approach  4
    Philosophical Worldviews  5
      The Postpositivist Worldview  6
      The Constructivist Worldview  7
      The Transformative Worldview  9
      The Pragmatic Worldview  10
    Research Designs  11
      Quantitative Designs  11
      Qualitative Designs  13
      Mixed Methods Designs  14
    Research Methods  16
  Research Approaches as Worldviews, Designs, and Methods  17
  Criteria for Selecting a Research Approach  19
    The Research Problem and Questions  19
    Personal Experiences  20
    Audience  20
  Summary  20
    ▶ Writing Exercises  21
  Additional Readings  21

Chapter 2  Review of the Literature  23
  The Research Topic  23
  The Literature Review  25
    The Use of the Literature  26
    Design Techniques  29
      Steps in Conducting a Literature Review  29
      Searching Computerized Databases  30
Chapter 3  The Use of Theory

Quantitative Theory Use
- Testing Causal Claims in Quantitative Research
- Variables in Quantitative Research
- Definition of a Theory in Quantitative Research
- Forms of Theories in Quantitative Research
- Placement of Quantitative Theories
- Writing a Quantitative Theoretical Perspective
- Example 3.1. A Quantitative Theory Section

Qualitative Theory Use
- Variation in Theory Use in Qualitative Research
- Locating the Theory in Qualitative Research
- Example 3.2. A Theory Early in a Qualitative Study

Mixed Methods Theory Use
- Example 3.3. A Theory at the End of a Qualitative Study
- Social Science Theory Use
- Participatory–Social Justice Theory Use
- Box 3.1. Transformative-Emancipatory Questions for Mixed Methods Researchers Throughout the Research Process
- Example 3.4. Theory in a Feminist Mixed Methods Study

Summary
- Writing Exercises

Additional Readings

Chapter 4  Writing Strategies and Ethical Considerations

Writing the Proposal
- Arguments Presented in a Proposal
- Format for a Qualitative Proposal
- Example 4.1. A Qualitative Constructivist/Interpretivist Format
- Example 4.2. A Qualitative Participatory-Social Justice Format
- Format for a Quantitative Proposal
PART II  DESIGNING RESEARCH

Chapter 5  The Introduction  

The Importance of Introductions
An Abstract for a Study
Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods Introductions
A Model for an Introduction
An Illustration
The Research Problem
Studies Addressing the Problem
Deficiencies in Past Literature
Example 5.1. Deficiencies in the Literature—Needed Studies
Example 5.2. Deficiencies in the Literature—Few Studies
Significance of a Study for Audiences
Example 5.3. Significance of the Study Stated in an Introduction to a Quantitative Study
Summary
Writing Exercises
Additional Readings

Chapter 6  The Purpose Statement

Significance and Meaning of a Purpose Statement
A Qualitative Purpose Statement
Example 6.1. A Purpose Statement in a Qualitative Phenomenology Study
Chapter 7 Research Questions and Hypotheses

Qualitative Research Questions

Example 7.1. A Qualitative Central Question From an Ethnography

Example 7.2. Qualitative Central Questions From a Case Study

Quantitative Research Questions and Hypotheses

Example 7.3. A Null Hypothesis

Example 7.4. Directional Hypotheses

Example 7.5. Nondirectional and Directional Hypotheses

Example 7.6. Standard Use of Language in Hypotheses

A Model for Descriptive Questions and Hypotheses

Example 7.7. Descriptive and Inferential Questions

Mixed Methods Research Questions and Hypotheses

Example 7.8. Hypotheses and Research Questions in a Mixed Methods Study

Example 7.9. A Mixed Methods Question Written Using Methods and Content Language

Summary

Writing Exercises

Additional Readings

Chapter 8 Quantitative Methods

Defining Surveys and Experiments

Components of a Survey Study Method Plan

The Survey Design

The Population and Sample

Instrumentation
Variables in the Study 155
Data Analysis 156
Interpreting Results and Writing a Discussion Section 158

Example 8.1. A Survey Method Plan 160

Components of an Experimental Study Method Plan 161
Participants 161
Variables 164
Instrumentation and Materials 165
Experimental Procedures 166

Example 8.2. Pre-experimental Designs 168
Example 8.3. Quasi-experimental Designs 168
Example 8.4. True Experimental Designs 169
Example 8.5. Single-Subject Designs 169

Threats to Validity 169
The Procedure 172
Data Analysis 173
Interpreting Results and Writing a Discussion Section 174

Example 8.6. An Experimental Method Plan 174

Summary 175
Writing Exercises 176

Additional Readings 176

Chapter 9 Qualitative Methods 179
The Characteristics of Qualitative Research 180
Qualitative Designs 182
The Researcher’s Role and Reflexivity 183
Data Collection Procedures 185
Data Recording Procedures 189
Data Analysis Procedures 190
Interpretation 198
Validity and Reliability 199
Writing the Qualitative Report 203

Example 9.1. Qualitative Procedures 204

Summary 209
Writing Exercises 210

Additional Readings 210

Chapter 10 Mixed Methods Procedures 213
Components of Mixed Methods Procedures 213
Describe Mixed Methods Research 215
Types of Mixed Methods Designs 217
Convergent Mixed Methods Design 217
Explanatory Sequential Mixed Methods Design 221
Exploratory Sequential Mixed Methods Design 224
Several Complex Mixed Methods Designs 226