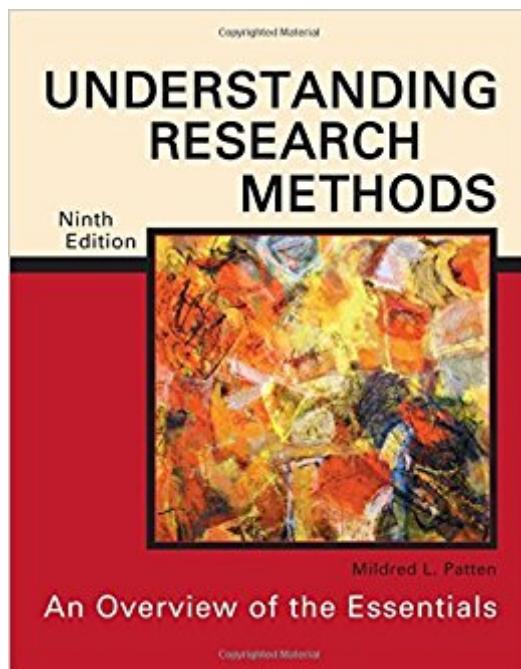


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Understanding Research Methods: An Overview Of The Essentials



Synopsis

Designed for students who are getting lost in the details of research methods and not getting the big picture, this short book provides an overview of the essential concepts traditionally covered in a research methods class. Lively examples on contemporary topics stimulate students' interest and show the relevance of research methods to their everyday lives. Divided into short sections, this book makes it easy for you to give customized assignments. Assign only the sections your students need. Shows students how to interpret statistics without computations. Factual Questions at the end of each section allow students to check their comprehension. Questions for Discussion stimulate classroom dialogue. New to this edition: Five new sections on in-text citations and reference lists have been added. Numerous changes have also been made for consistency with the latest editions of the APA and ASA Style manuals, and new examples have been added.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I received the 8th edition. If you are expecting a good book on how to do research from idea to completion, this isn't the book for you. This is an OVERVIEW. Now if you wanted to know the essentials of research methods, then this book is one of the most easily comprehended, well-organized books. Patten breaks everything down by easily referenced topics grouped in sections. In the 8th ed. there are websites listed in one of the appendices, some of the addresses have been updated since 2008. I don't know if the 9th ed. reflects those changes since they sent me the wrong edition, but if you are going to reference those sites you might want to make sure you

have the updated information first.

This is a great introduction of research methods. I liked that it was simple and very straightforward explanations of the basics. However, as grateful as I was for the easy read 1-2 pages per topic, there were times that it failed to address the concepts adequately and could've used an extra page or so of further explanation.

This is the quintessential textbook for an introductory research methods course. The chapters are all less than two pages long, filled with a lot of good information that is not dry and uninteresting to read. I teach applied statistics, data analysis, and quantitative methods and find myself referring back to this book time and time again. There is no methods textbook I would recommend higher.

I did not find this book to be a very good guide for writing a research proposal. I found it vague and not well organized. Certainly not worth the money. I will not be keeping this one in my library.

Granted, the number books available on this subject are very limited, but I have dug in and found other texts on research methods and conclude that this one is neither comprehensive nor clear. As you read the text, Patten repeatedly refers to "topics" cited in later parts of the book without taking the time to explain the topic at the level of the chapter you're reading. You are constantly forced to seek explanations from outside the text. Furthermore, even though this is a book on research methods, which should take into account the absolute importance of citing references, this book cites none. Nada. I guess Patten thought all of this up herself. I am just now finishing up a graduate level course on this subject and felt that this text pulled our class down to the level of some cheap-o class taught for \$39 on-line rather than a graduation level course at a real university. This also seems to be the opinion of my entire graduate level class.

Does not go into details. Chapters are too short and don't give very good explanations of the concepts. It was required for a class.

Concise, great review, and great to look up questions, probably not so much for learning about research the first time.

While it's not my subject of choice, the book is clearly written and breaks down complicated

concepts well overall. It helped me for my Research Methods class, that's for sure.

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