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From the Publisher

This text provides students with a basic introduction to research methods in the social and behavioral sciences that is easy to read, understand and use.

From the Back Cover

Pearson's MySearchLab is the easiest way for students to master a writing or research project. In a recent student survey, the overwhelming majority of students are assigned writing and research projects, for which they would use research and citation tools if they were available to them. MySearchLab is a website available at no additional charge in a package with a Pearson textbook and is also available as a standalone product.

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The 7th edition of Exploring Research provides an introduction to research methods in a friendly, approachable writing style. It explores the use of electronic sources (the Internet) as a means to enhance research skills; it includes discussions about scientific methods; and it incorporates the most common types of research models in the social and behavioral sciences, including qualitative methods. It provides coverage of the research process, problem selection, sampling and generalizability; a discussion of the measurement process provides a comprehensive resource for those seeking to further their research skills. It also describes how to collect and analyze data, and provides thorough instruction on how to prepare and write a research proposal and manuscript.

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A Great Introductory Research Book

By Cook

Having previously purchased a required research textbook that was written in a truly "mind-numbing" fashion, I went online to find a supplemental text. I was looking for something to help me develop some background knowledge in order to better understand my assigned readings. I consider myself very lucky for having found "Exploring Research". The writing style is very straightforward. I was easily able to read the textbook within a few days, and this made understanding the assigned readings in my course textbook much easier to do.

Easy to understand charts are used to illustrate points and organize the information. Practical resources are given to assist in developing a Literature Review. Rather than simply telling the reader to read a research study "critically", the author provides a list of specific questions an introductory student can ask themselves for each section of a report being read. As a supplemental text for the beginning student, this book is a wonderful resource for making sense of the basic research concepts.

Chapters include:

The Role and Importance of Research

The Research Process: Coming to Terms

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Sampling and Generalizability

Measurement, Reliability, and Validity

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Research

Writing a Research Proposal

Writing a Research Manuscript

14 of 14 people found the following review helpful.

The Best!

By Susanna White

Regardless of what your research needs are, this books could be called "research for dummies" in its excellent and easy-to-follow explanations. Buy this book, even if your required text is something else - It's filled with examples and can be read like an adventure novel in bed WHILE being truly comprehended! I've taken statistics, research classes, etc. - I wished I had read this book along with my first class! There's nothing dry about this and 1000 words are too few to praise it adequately!

6 of 7 people found the following review helpful.

Tons of Errors!

By I. S. Blanke

While this book is written in a very "user-friendly" style, the amount of typographical, stylistic, and grammatical errors is incredibly distracting! For a book that's supposed to discuss the precision of research methodology, it certainly has a long way to go in being accurate. It seems that on almost every page there is a typographical or grammatical error, which is completely unacceptable in a professional resource (even if it is targeted towards "beginners"). There are a couple of chapters in which entire sections seem been left out and others that are very sloppily edited.

Surely the author could have forked over a couple hundred bucks to get a professional (or even a half-intelligent grad student!) to proofread it. It is in its seventh edition, after all.

If copious amounts of unprofessional errors irritate you in a textbook, avoid this one.

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