Further reading

Good introductory books

This is a short, accessible book that will help you become familiar with research vocabulary as well as teaching you a lot about how research works.

Chapter 4 is about doing evaluation as an insider researcher.

This readable book explains the rationale behind quantitative research.

This book will tell you more about quantitative and qualitative research, and also has a useful chapter on action research.

This is a classic text and well worth reading if you plan to do qualitative research.


Kara, H. (2022) *Qualitative research for quantitative researchers*, London: SAGE.
These books do what their titles suggest. Each will be useful if you are one kind of researcher who wants and/or needs to explore the other kind of research.

A helpful how-to book for practice-based researchers.

Research ethics

This is a useful book on ethics in practice, and contains a helpful checklist.


Webster, S., Lewis, J. and Brown, A. (2014) ‘Ethical considerations in qualitative research’, in J. Ritchie, J. Lewis, C. McNaughton Nicholls and R. Ormston (eds) Qualitative research practice: A guide for social science students and researchers (2nd edn), London: SAGE, pp 77–110. Although this chapter focuses on qualitative research, many of the points made are also relevant to quantitative and mixed methods research.

User involvement
Wallcraft, J., Schrank, B. and Amering, M. (eds) (2009) Handbook of service user involvement in mental health research, Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell. This is an international collection and, while its focus is on mental health, many of the points made apply to service user involvement more generally.

Morrow, E., Boaz, A., Brearley, S. and Ross, F. (2012) Handbook of service user involvement in nursing and healthcare research, Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell. Again, while the focus is on nursing and healthcare, many of the points made apply to service user involvement in general.


Philosophical underpinnings
Pernecky, T. (2016) Epistemology and metaphysics for qualitative research, London: SAGE. Covers epistemology and ontology, positivism and realism, and, to some extent, constructionism. Despite the title, many of the points made apply to quantitative as well as qualitative research.

An edited collection containing examples of the use of transformative research frameworks in practice.

**Action research**

A really useful introduction to action research.

**Evaluation**

A good introductory text, which, unusually, contains a chapter on the ethics of evaluation.

**Mixed methods**

A readable and easy to use how-to book on mixed methods.

**Arts-based research**

These two books from the USA are useful and readable introductions to arts-based research.

**Digital methods**

This international collection covers a range of topics such as online surveys, data management, data analysis using computer software and the ethics of digital research.

Salmons, J. (2022) *Doing qualitative research online* (2nd edn), London: SAGE.
This is a very useful how-to book that leads you step by step through the process of doing qualitative research online. (Bryman, below, is useful for collecting quantitative data online.)
Theory
This is an excellent and accessible introduction to social theory.

This book is more advanced but offers a useful demonstration of how theory can be used in practice.

Research design
The five approaches are: narrative research, phenomenology, grounded theory, ethnography and case study. The book is well written and worth reading, whether or not you intend to use one of these approaches.

A very good book on designing research.

Section II of this book, ‘Asking Questions, Finding Answers’, is particularly useful for the early stages of the research process.

There is a useful section on quantitative versus qualitative research (pp 400–3), and detailed chapters on sampling in quantitative research (Chapter 8) and in qualitative research (Chapter 18). Chapters 9–12 give plenty of useful details about quantitative data collection, including advice about collecting data online. (See Salmons, above, if you want to collect qualitative data online.)

Research proposals
These are both helpful step-by-step guides to preparing a research proposal.
Time management
Professor Johnson is a medical academic in the USA. This is a collection of very useful essays on time and work management, which were originally published in *Academic Physician & Scientist* in 2004–7.

Research journaling
A readable, practical book to help people get the most out of their research journal.

Literature review
This is an excellent brief and clear explanation of how to do a literature review.

Secondary research
Covers qualitative secondary research.

Questionnaires
This is an invaluable little book for anyone who wants to put together a paper questionnaire.

Qualitative methods
This book has useful chapters on interviewing, focus groups and observational methods.
This is a well organised and thorough book on interviewing.

A very useful guide that includes information about conducting focus groups by telephone or via the internet.

This is a short accessible book that gives an excellent introduction to observation methods.

**Visual methods**

This is a readable, practical book, aimed at people with little or no experience of using visual methods.

**Data from social media**

This has a useful central section on data collection including a chapter on using social media in research.

**Case study research**

This is a helpful how-to book for case study researchers.

**Creative methods**

A detailed overview of creative research methods in practice.
Further reading

**Documentary research**

A useful textbook for social science researchers who are using documents.

A helpful, practical resource for researchers from any discipline who are new to working with documents.

**Quantitative methods**

‘Quantitative methods in social research: A topical bibliography.’
This document is free to download from the British Library. It lists lots of useful websites, journals and other helpful information and resources: www.bl.uk/socialsciences

This book begins by focusing on how to devise a new scale, but it has a useful appendix covering where to find existing measures, and lots of helpful information on how to use scales.

This is a very helpful how-to book that links theory with quantitative research techniques.

Section 2 is on quantitative research techniques and contains five readable and useful chapters.

**Quantitative analysis**

A great introduction to the use and misuse of statistics.

This book is old, but still very relevant, and easy to read.
This is a more modern take on how statistics can be misused, and is useful for learning to think critically about reported statistics.

A really useful how-to book that will take you through the process step by step, with clear instructions.

Qualitative analysis

This is a classic text, but it is very expensive, so borrow it from the library if you can.

This is a very useful and much more affordable book; definitely a better bet if you want your own copy.

Mixed methods analysis


These two chapters come from two seminal works on mixed methods research.

Quantitative reporting

This short and readable book is very useful for people who are new to statistics.

This short, readable book explains what to do with your statistical findings.

This book helps people to understand how statistics work, and how they are presented and misrepresented. It is particularly helpful for qualitative researchers who need to understand the statistics in others’ research.


Explains why and how researchers should use statistics ‘to formulate good arguments explaining comparative differences … in an interesting way’ (p 17).


This one is self-explanatory.


This is a big book of almost 750 pages. The author has set his statistical textbook within a fictional story in the speculative fiction genre, illustrated with comic art. So it is definitely different, and some readers love it.


This is an up-to-date statistical textbook that has more coverage of debates within statistics than most.

**Writing for research**


This is an excellent guide to citation.


This is a very readable book on writing skills.


A really useful text for anyone who wants to start writing for academic journals, this demystifies the process, step by step.


This is an equally practical and helpful book.

A classic guide that is very useful for first-time writers of academic journal articles.


If you're not an academic, don’t be put off, because this article is open access, straightforward in style, and also relevant for practitioners.

**Presenting and disseminating research**

Daly, I. and Brophy Haney, A. (eds) (2014) *53 interesting ways to communicate your research*, Scarborough: The Professional and Higher Partnership Ltd.

This is an inspirational little book on presenting and disseminating research.


These two books are useful and readable for anyone who wants to delve further into the art of data visualisation.