

Suggested Books on Research and Evaluation

Below are some books we suggest on applied research and evaluation methods. They correct common misconceptions about evaluation and provide good information on the basics of results-focused evaluation.

These books are available on Amazon.com, or you might find them in your local bookstore or library.

Bourque, L.B. *How to Conduct Self-Administered and Mail Surveys*. SAGE Publications, 1995.

A user-friendly, information-packed resource on developing a survey plan to get useful and scientifically reliable results.

Denzin, Norman K. *Handbook of Qualitative Research*. SAGE Publications, 2000.

An important reference on qualitative research theories and practical considerations for studies that use qualitative research strategies like text analyses, case studies, interviews, and focus groups.

Fink, A.G. *How to Ask Survey Questions*. SAGE Publications, 1995.

Lots of useful tips and examples for developing survey questions to get useful and credible response.

Leedy, P. D. *Practical Research: Planning and Design* (Fifth Edition). Macmillan Publishing Company, 1993.

A classic guide to planning a practical research strategy that provides useful answers to your questions.

Litwin, M.S. *How to Measure Survey Reliability and Validity*. SAGE Publications, 1995.

A useful resource on the multiple aspects of reliability and validity to consider in assessing the relevance and trustworthiness of a survey. Much of it also applies to any type of research.

Meier, K.J. *Applied Statistics for Public Administration*. Wadsworth Publishing Company, 1993.

A handy reference on many types of statistical analyses that are commonly used in evaluation of programs and services.

Miles, M.B. *Qualitative Data Analysis: An Expanded Sourcebook*. SAGE Publications, 1994.

A highly informative and useful resource on how to analyze data from qualitative methods. It also includes discussion of the power of qualitative studies for assessing causality. Also, it includes methods for using qualitative data for explaining and predicting, like the “causal network” method.

Wallis, S.E. *Avoiding Policy Failure: A Workable Approach*. Isce Publishing, 2011.

This book presents a hopeful new direction for making research more useful. We need more studies and experience with approaches like this that can help researchers, government leaders, and the public to more effectively and easily choose among competing plans and strategies and create better solutions.

Webb, E.J. *Unobtrusive Measures*. SAGE Publications, 1999.

Although some of the text is a bit dense, this book is a very useful resource for planning program evaluations and research studies that include unobtrusive measures like review of existing records and observation.

Yin, R.K. *Case Study Research: Design and Methods*. SAGE Publications, 1994 (Second Edition).

A great resource that challenges limiting stereotypes about case study research and details how to judge the quality of research designs and how to conduct various types of case studies.

If you have any questions or would like assistance, contact us at:
info@meaningfulevidence.com. Your success is our goal!



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