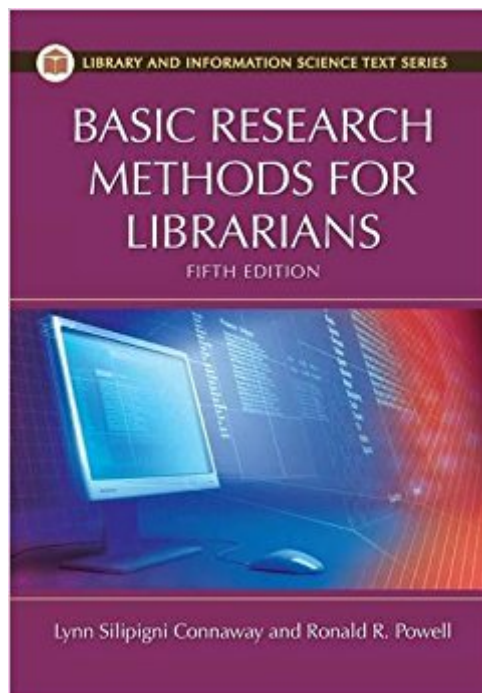


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Basic Research Methods For Librarians, 5th Edition (Library And Information Science Text)



Synopsis

This thoroughly updated introduction covers the major issues involved in designing and conducting original research relevant to the fields of library and information science. Library and information science examples to explain research methodologies and techniques. Explanations and examples of sampling procedures. A table for determining sample sizes and a random number table. Notes at the end of each chapter, plus a list of more than 400 research-related references at the end of the book.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Lynn Silipigni Connaway, PhD, is senior research scientist at OCLC Research. Her research has been funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services and JISC in the United Kingdom.

Ronald R. Powell, PhD, is professor emeritus of the School of Library and Information Science at Wayne State University, Detroit, MI.

This fifth revised edition of Powell and Connaway's classic title is the definitive work for library-based research methods. All aspects of research -- from developing a research study, to method selection, to data-collection techniques, to data analysis, and finally to writing the research report -- are included. The text is written in a clear and readily understandable manner, and the focus is specific to library contexts and concerns. Appendixes, detailed references, and both an

author and subject index are value enhancements. Highly recommended for all librarians and library and information science students who contemplate research projects. BM-P

Sloppy revision of what (I've been told) was once a high quality, useful text. I used this for a class in the topic area and the instructor eventually gave up on it because so much of what was included did not apply to library research or taught practices that directly contravened professional best practices.

I'd like to learn about research methodology. This book will not help me do so. It is terribly written and hard to understand.

This product has been what I expected it to be and and it has been very useful for its purpose

There are two things that I absolutely despise: Books that are deliberately written with the most complicated words and explanations that they can find at the cost of clarity and readability, and books that go out of their way to dumb down material to the point where important details are omitted entirely. If you're wondering where this book falls, it's under the category of "overly complicated". I do understand that this is written for students at higher levels of education and I do understand that some of the more complicated concepts will be difficult or near impossible to really explain without using complicated words and explanations. It's just that at times I got the impression that this book was more concerned with sounding really, really smart and cool than it was trying to describe something in simpler, more concise details and then applying it in real world contexts. This book does do this on occasion, but for every passage where something felt nicely written there were about five to ten other passages that just felt like they could have been explained far better. This thing reads like stereo instructions, if I can make a Beetlejuice reference. It's just so dry that it doesn't hold reader attention like it could have if it'd been written in a bit more user-friendly manner. That's not to say that this book doesn't have good and useful information. It does and for the most part everything is laid out well. You'll likely have to re-read passages several times and very heavily supplement everything you read with various searches and websites that explain the same information in a more entertaining and clear manner, but this does have pretty much everything you will need to know. And to be fair, if you're going into the research profession then you will need to develop a fondness for this writing style because this will be what is expected of you, so it will be a good way to immerse yourself. I'm just overly irritated with the idea that in order to

be informative you have to be overly dense and opaque. I've read many, many textbooks that dealt with sophisticated, complicated, and intricate information, yet they remained wonderfully clear (to me, at least) and found ways to entertain the reader and keep their attention. While I know that ABC-CLIO is in no danger of going out of business anytime soon, there has been a demand for texts that can entertain and inform at the same time and this demand is only growing larger as more and more people attend college and the textbook market grows. Revising this somewhat to meet this new demand would be a good idea.

This was a required text for a research in LIS graduate course. It is about what you expect it to be, but nothing more. The book gets the information across. It doesn't do this spectacularly. It doesn't do it poorly either. There is only one reason I am keeping it on my bookshelf as opposed to selling it now that the course is over, and that is the section on how to choose a statistical test for your situation. I do like how the authors explain how to choose the best strategy for stats, even though I know that most research methods books probably go over this in some way similar to this one.

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