



# **LIBEMET Guides to methodology as research support**

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## Background information: Importance of a Good Methodology Section in Your Research Paper

- **Source:** [Organizing Your Social Sciences Research Paper](#) by USCLibraries
- The purpose of this guide is to provide advice on how to develop and organize a research paper in the social sciences
- The methods section of a research paper provides the information by which a study's validity is judged. The method section answers two main questions:
  - 1) How was the data collected or generated?
  - 2) How was it analyzed? The writing should be direct and precise and written in the past tense.

# Background information: Relationship Between Theories and Methods

Source: [Organizing Your Social Sciences Research Paper](#) by USCLibraries

## Knowing the Relationship Between Theories and Methods

- There can be multiple meaning associated with the term "theories" and the term "methods" in social sciences research. A helpful way to delineate between them is to understand "theories" as representing different ways of characterizing the social world when you research it and "methods" as representing different ways of generating and analyzing data about that social world. Framed in this way, all empirical social sciences research involves theories and methods, whether they are stated explicitly or not. However, while theories and methods are often related, it is important that, as a researcher, you deliberately separate them in order to avoid your theories playing a disproportionate role in shaping what outcomes your chosen methods produce.
- Introspectively engage in an ongoing dialectic between theories and methods to help enable you to use the outcomes from your methods to interrogate and develop new theories, or ways of framing conceptually the research problem. This is how scholarship grows and branches out into new intellectual territory.

More information: Reynolds, R. Larry. [Ways of Knowing](#). Alternative Microeconomics. Part 1, Chapter 3. Boise State University; [The Theory-Method Relationship](#). S-Cool Revision. United Kingdom.



**Background information:** Relationship Between Theories and Methods  
Source: [Organizing Your Social Sciences Research Paper](#) by USCLibraries

### Groups of Research Methods:

■ **There are two main groups of research methods in the social sciences:**

1. The **empirical-analytical group** approaches the study of social sciences in a similar manner that researchers study the natural sciences. This type of research focuses on objective knowledge, research questions that can be answered yes or no, and operational definitions of variables to be measured. The empirical-analytical group employs deductive reasoning that uses existing theory as a foundation for hypotheses that need to be tested. **This approach is focused on explanation.**
2. The **interpretative group is focused on understanding phenomenon in a comprehensive, holistic way.** This research method allows you to recognize your connection to the subject under study. Because the interpretative group focuses more on subjective knowledge, it requires careful interpretation of variables.

# Methodological resources in University Library (as expanded search as possible!)

**Search: \*method\***  
Search alternatives: [methods\\*](#) +

◀ Search results - 20 / 15 062 ▶

Sort **Date descending** ▼ Results per page **20** ▼

**Narrow search**

- Available online
- Format: Book material ✕
- Organisation ▼
- Format ▲
- ▶ Book material (15062)

**Applied linguistics**  
Book  
Published: 2014  
Main Library. 2nd floor. Loan period 28 days  
▶ More options

**Research **methods** in sociolinguistics : a practical guide**  
Book  
Published: 2014  
Table of contents: "... Historical Assessment of Research Questions in

9.5.2014

# Search Results Limitators in JYKDOK

Sort **Date descending** Results per page **20**

**Narrow search**

Available online

Format: Book material ✕

**Organisation** ∨

**Format** ∧

▶ Book material (15062)

**Topic** ∧

Methodology (1827)  
 Research (1407)  
 tutkimusmenetelmät (1023)  
 Computer science (972)  
 Computer Science (837)  
 more ... ∨

**Author** ∧

SAGE (734)  
 ebrary, Inc (100)  
 Sage Publications, inc (29)  
 Sage eReference (Online service) (29)  
 Kodály, Zoltán (27)  
 more ... ∨

**Language** ∨

**Year** ∨

**Genre** ∨

» Use limitators when you want to narrow and specify you search results

» Example: You can choose just online resources

» Example: Narrow your result list by a specific topic

9.5.2014

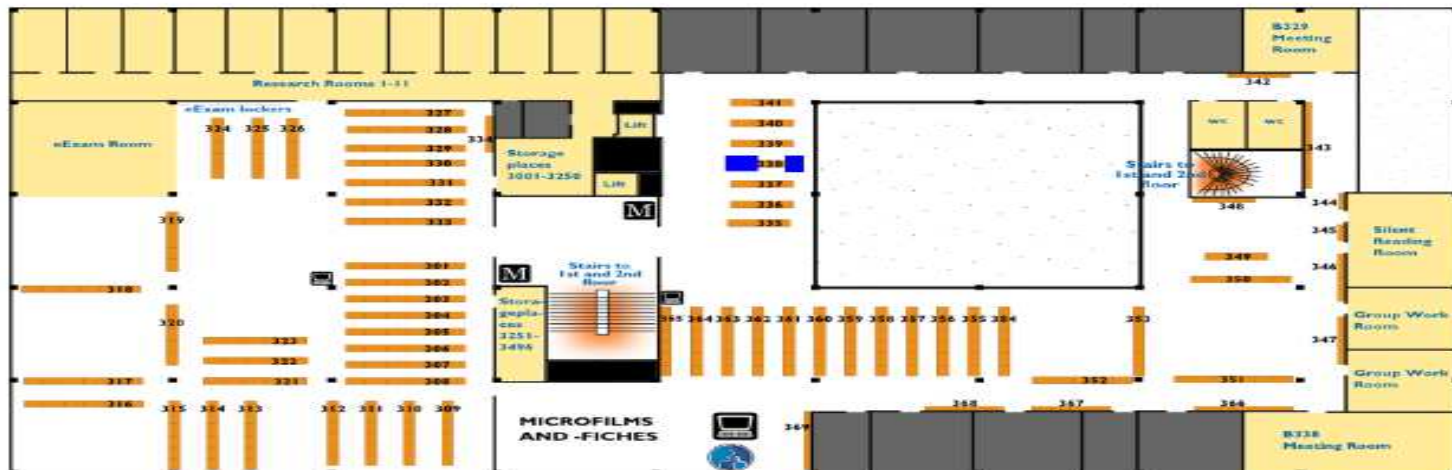
# Location of Printed Methods Books Collection in Main Linbrary

## Shelf number(s) 338

📍 You can find the book from the shelf at location Wheeldon

Collection: Books. 3rd floor. Loan period 28 days.

For subject-specific methods, see appropriate call number



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# IMRD-model and Information Seekingin process

- IMRD –model

1. INTRODUCTION

2. MATERIALS & METHODS

3. RESULTS

4. DISCUSSION

} Most important and demanding section of your information seeking process

- For orientation [TAMING THE RESEARCH BEAST Research Methods in TESL and Language Acquisition](#)

Text by Lynn Henrichsen, Michael T. Smith, and David S. Baker.  
Graphics and HTML by David S. Baker. (c) 1997

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## Methodological literature related to information searching in databases of various fields

Where to start:

Basic handbooks to have an overview of research methodology:

USE [JYKDOK](#): (NB: use an asterisk \* for the truncation symbol – command method\* expands your search and terms like method, methods, methodology and methodological are included in this command)

- linguistics / philology AND method\*
- social science AND method\*
- political science AND method\*
- sport\* AND method\*
- economics / business AND method\*


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# Search: social science AND method\*

Search alternatives: [social science AND methods\\*](#) 

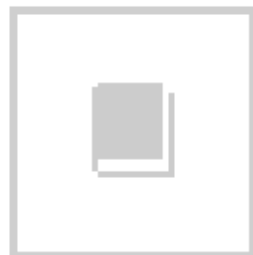
◀ Search results 1 - 20 / 765 ▶

Sort


Relevance ▼

Results per page

20 ▼



## The SAGE encyclopedia of **social science** research **methods**

 eBook

Published: 2003

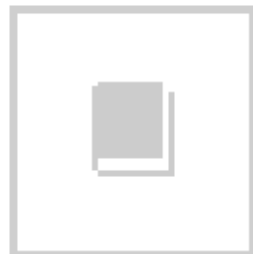
Subjects: "...Social sciences Methodology Encyclopedias..."

[SAGE Research Methods Online](#)


▶ [More options](#)

Contents ▼

[SAGE Research Methods Online](#)



## **Method in social science** : a realist approach

 eBook

by: [Sayer, R. Andrew](#) Published: 1992

Subjects: "...Social sciences Methodology..."

Contents ▼

[Ebrary e-Book Collection](#)

### Narrow search



Available online

Organisation ▼

Format ▲

▶ [Book material](#) (751)

▶ [Video](#) (7)

▶ [Other](#) (5)

▶ [Thesis](#) (2)

Topic ▼

Author ▼

Language ▼

Year ▼

Genre ▼

# Methodological Resources and Databases

- Example [Journal of Mixed Methods Research](#) (*JMMR* focuses on empirical, methodological, and theoretical articles about mixed methods research across the social, behavioral, health, and human sciences.
- And 224 [other similar journals](#)
- [SAGE Research Methods Online](#) (SRMO)
- For a humanist (and also for social scientist): [Mapping Research Methods](#)

# Take the advantage of database metadata

## Research method in the postmodern

Authors:	Scheurich, James Joseph ▶ <a href="#">Additional information</a>
Format:	📖 Book vii, 189 s. ; 25 cm
Published:	London : Falmer Press, 1997
Language:	English
Series:	Qualitative studies series 3.
Subjects:	<a href="#">Education</a> > <a href="#">Research</a> > <a href="#">Philosophy</a> <a href="#">Education</a> > <a href="#">Research</a> > <a href="#">Methodology</a> <a href="#">Postmodernism and education</a> <a href="#">tutkimusmenetelmät</a> <a href="#">validiteetti</a> <a href="#">tietoteoria</a> <a href="#">postmodernismi</a> <a href="#">forskningsmetoder</a> <a href="#">Postmodernism</a> <a href="#">kunskapsteori</a> <a href="#">less</a> ▲
ISBN:	0-7507-0645-7 (nid.) 0-7507-0709-7 (sid.)
Links:	▶ <a href="#">More options</a>
Table of contents:	1. Educational Reforms can Reproduce Societal Inequalities: A Case Study / Michael Imber -- 2. Social <a href="#">more</a> ▼



### Similar items

[Research methods for education 2010](#)  
Newby, Peter

[The postmodern condition : a report on knowledge 1984](#)  
Lyotard, Jean-François

[Postmodernism and history 2004](#)  
Thompson, Willie

[The structure of knowing : existential trust as an epistemological... 1999](#)  
Kalman, Hildur

[Research methods in education 2000](#)  
Cohen, Louis



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# Methodological Resources in Databases

## ProQuest PsycInfo:

Methodology:

Select all

- Empirical Study
- Experimental Replication
- Field Study
- Focus Group
- Followup Study
- Interview
- Literature Review

## Methodology as a **subject term (thesaurus, subject headings)** in databases :Example: Database: CINAHL (Ebsco); CINAHL Headings:

The screenshot shows the Ebsco CINAHL database interface. At the top, there are navigation tabs for 'New Search', 'Publications', and 'CINAHL Headings'. Below this is the Ebsco logo and the text 'Database: CINAHL'. There are also links for 'Basic Search', 'Advanced Search', and 'Search History'. The main content area is titled 'CINAHL Headings' and includes a 'View Tutorials' link. A green banner highlights the search results for 'methodology'. Below the banner, there are instructions: 'Check box to view subheadings.' and 'Click linked term for free view.'. The results list includes:
 

- [Research Methodology](#)
- [Q-Sort](#)
- [Cochrane Library](#)
- Q-Sort Methodology Use: [Q-Sort](#)
- Q Methodology Use: [Q-Sort](#)
- Methodology, Research Use: [Research Methodology](#)
- Cochrane Review Methodology Databases Use: [Cochrane](#)

 A black arrow points from the right side of the slide to the green banner.

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Search:



Advanced Search

Browse

Content

Authors & Editors

Methodologies

Methods Lists

Videos

### Getting Started with Your Research

Do you know which method you want to use to answer your research question?

Start out by doing a **Quick Search** on this method from the box in the upper left of every page. Use the **Advanced Search** feature for creating a more targeted query. Search results will include relevant books, book chapters, dictionary and encyclopedia entries, videos, or journal articles from over 175,000 pages of renowned SAGE content in research methods.

Not sure which method to use in your research?

Start by exploring the **Methods Map**. You can use the Methods Map to discover new methods or discover relationships between methods, and then link to related content.

Visit the **Help page** or watch a **video tutorial** to learn more about how to use the tools on **SAGE Research Methods** in your research.

Explore the Methods Map



Access Methods Lists



Browse Little Green Books



Use Search



SAGE Research Methods Cases is now in beta! [Learn more](#)

### Featured Videos



An Introduction to SAGE Research Methods

[Larger Video >](#)



How SAGE has shaped research methods

[Larger Video >](#)



How can an undergrad use SAGE Research Methods?

[Larger Video >](#)

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Help Readers Find Your Article  
[ow.ly/tef8b](#)  
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Need a non-technical MATLAB guide for you or your students?  
[ow.ly/taavh](#)  
[Expand](#)

Tweet to @SAGE\_Methods

Methodspace

# Additional Guides in SRMO

## SAGE Research Methods LibGuide



The screenshot shows the SAGE Research Methods LibGuide website. The navigation bar includes tabs for Home, Start Your Research, Business & Management, Criminology, Education, Health, Nursing, and Psychology. The Psychology tab is selected. Below the navigation bar, there are sections for Quick Links, Suggested Methods Books in Psychology, and Subject Categories. An arrow points to the Psychology tab in the navigation bar.

## SAGE Research Methods Cases (coming soon!)

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# Data Archives in Finland

- Finnish Social Science Data Archive
- FSD's partners

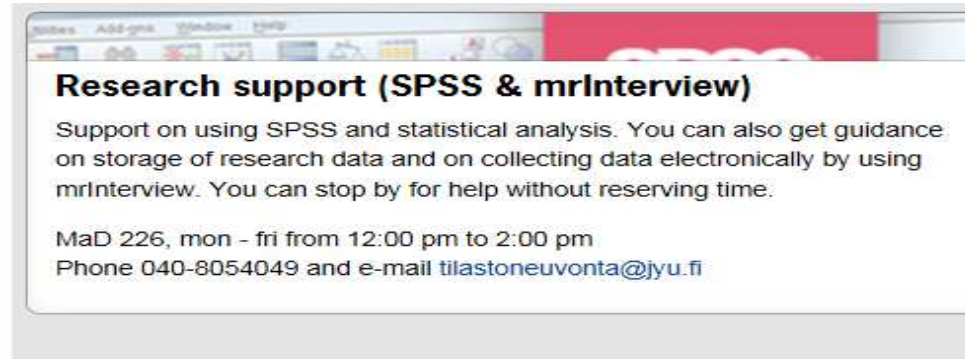
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# IT-SERVICES

## RESEARCH SUPPORT



## Dataverse Network

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Thank you!

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