Research Methods are Important

• Research methods help researchers collect data in an accepted manner in order to produce accurate results

• Sound methodology is important to make sure your research results are trusted and respected in your field

• In some disciplines, the use of standardized methods is also important to allow fellow researchers to replicate, or repeat, your study
You have access

- Over 1,000 books, journals, videos and reference material
- Bespoke research tools
- Research models, reading lists and practice material
- Resources to prepare and write up methodology for publication
- 600+ case studies of real research, showing the good, the bad and the ugly
- 900+ videos covering the whole research process and key academic skills: from writing a research proposal to presenting work and building networks
Bespoke Research Tools

• **Methods map:** Interactive visualization of methods in context

• **Reading lists:** Create and share reading, research or assignment lists

• **Project Planner:** Step-by-step guide to conducting a research project

• **Which Stats Test:** Help finding the best test to analyze your data
What are Research Methods and why are they important?

Research Methods are the systematic tools used to conduct research. Basically, they are the rules researchers follow to collect information in order to seek an answer to their research question by collecting data in an accepted manner in order to produce accurate results.

Sound methodology is important to make sure your research results are trusted and respected in your field. In some disciplines, the use of standardized methods is also important to allow fellow researchers to replicate, or repeat, your study. For example, if a new medical study shows that eating chocolate lowers blood pressure, the medical community will want to find other experiments with the same results before doctors start to encourage their patients to eat more chocolate.

Carrying out a research project

Research Design → Method Selection → Literature Review → Data Collection → Data Analysis → Writing Up

What does SAGE Research Methods do?

*SAGE Research Methods* is an online collection of books and other full-text materials that provide authoritative information and multi-media on how to perform hundreds of research methods. The how-tos for carrying out every step of your research project are here.

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Search

Enter a term or phrase in the quick search box on the home page, or use the Advanced Search link to filter your search by multiple criteria and for Boolean queries.

In the search results, icons next to the titles will tell you what type of content the entry is (Book, Book Chapter, Case, etc.). You can use the right-hand sidebar to refine your search by content type. Content can also be refined by academic disciplines.

Once you’ve clicked on a piece of content from your search results, the tool menu at the top will allow you to add it to your Reading List (see section on Reading Lists), export the citation, download a PDF of the content, or share it via social media or email. You can print directly from your browser or from the PDF view.

Methods Map

The Methods Map is a visualization illustrating how the methods terms featured on SAGE Research Methods are related. This can be a useful tool to help users find the exact method and content they’re looking for. A definition of the term appears at the top center of the screen, along with a link to access content. Broader terms appear to the left and narrower terms to the right, so you can easily explore related concepts and content. The Methods Map can be accessed with the Research Tools link.
The Research Process

1. **Write a Research Question**—Students often have a good research topic, but sometimes need help refining their research question. A quick search on *SAGE Research Methods* gives them info on what makes a good, testable research question.

2. **Conduct a Literature Review**—*SAGE Research Methods* includes info on how to conduct a literature review, as well as how to write up the results.

3. **Choose a Method**—The video “How do I choose between different research methods” with Stephen Gorard talks about how to select the right method for their research.
   - Dictionary and Encyclopedia entries are a great way to get a quick introduction to a method and narrow down the best means of testing their research question.
   - If your library has access, *SAGE Research Methods Cases* can also help select methods. Students can search case studies for research questions similar to theirs and use the same or similar methodology.

4. **Gather, Analyze, and Present the Data**—The many book titles on particular methods equip students to gather and analyze their data, and case studies can show them the obstacles and questions that can often arise in the course of a project to help them anticipate these twists.

5. **Dissemination**—*SAGE Research Methods* has resources on writing up research findings, completing a dissertation, and submitting work for publication.
Cases

*SAGE Research Methods Cases* are stories of how real research projects were conducted, showing the challenges and successes of doing research, written by the researchers themselves.

- 600+ case studies
- Stories of real research told by the experts, covering the good, the bad and the ugly
- Focus on project design and methods application
- With discussion questions and learning objectives
SAGE Research Methods Video includes tutorials, case study videos, expert interviews, and more, covering the entire research methods and statistics curriculum.

- 484 videos
- Tutorials, interviews, documentaries, case studies, and more
- Clipping and embedding functionalities
- Searchable, downloadable, rolling transcripts
- Includes a 15-hour introductory statistics course
Video: Practical Research & Academic Skills

Offers support on the practical skills that researchers need to successfully complete their research

Includes content on:

- Writing a research proposal
- Planning & designing a research project
- Securing ethical approval
- Writing for publication
- Project management
- Essay writing
- Time management
- Computer applications
- Applied research
- Research careers & networking
- How to present at conferences
datasets

Master data analysis through hands-on practice

*SAGE Research Methods Datasets* is a collection of more than 500 teaching datasets and instructional guides that give students a chance to learn data analysis by practicing themselves. This bank of topical, engaging practice datasets, indexed by method and data type, is optimized for use in classroom exercises or in exam papers, saving faculty hours of sourcing and cleaning data themselves. The decisions researchers make when analyzing data can seem like a black box for students—through practicing analysis using real data from *SAGE Research Methods Datasets*, students can see how analytic decisions are made, helping them become confident researchers.

- Quantitative datasets are taken from surveys and experiments and come with instructions to analyze the data in SPSS or R
- Qualitative datasets are taken from academic research projects, providing bite-size examples from interviews, focus groups, documentary sources, and more, plus advice on how to approach analysis.
SRM supports the Research Process:

- **Write a research question:** A quick search and you will find a variety of resources to help you construct a strong research question; or use the Project Planner for more detailed guidance.

- **Conduct a literature review:** You can find info on how to conduct a literature review and write up the results by exploring the Methods Map, or following the Project Planner checklists.

- **Choose a method for gathering and analysing your data:** Find videos in which experts give advise on how to choose research methods. Dictionary and Encyclopaedia entries give a quick introduction to a method. Cases can also help you select your method by searching for research questions similar to yours and use the same or similar methodology.

- **Gather, Analyse, and Present the Data:** Book titles will equip you to gather and analyse your data and case studies can show you the obstacles and questions that can often arise in the course of a project to help you anticipate these twists. Which Stats Test can help you decide on the best test to use.

- **Dissemination:** Find resources on completing a dissertation and submitting work for publication, or watch a short tutorial or online course to develop your presentation skills.
How to use SAGE Research Methods

Project Planner:

• The project planner is a tutorial tool that gives expert step-by-step advice on every stage of the research process, ideal for larger research projects such as dissertations

• You can follow the planner stage by stage or click into any stage to find a series of common questions that you can click through to find an in-depth, expert answer and advice

• Includes links to dive deeper into specific topics, as well as checklists to run against your own work
How to use SAGE Research Methods

Methods Map:

• Use this interactive visualisation of methods and their context and interconnections to discover relevant content and read definitions of key terminology.
• For example, you could follow ‘Communicating and disseminating research’ through to ‘Publishing your research’ to find content with best advice on how to write for publication and get your research published, or go through ‘Writing research’ to ‘Dissertation’ to find content to help with writing your dissertation.
How to use SAGE Research Methods

Which Stats Test:

• If you are specifically trying to decide on a statistical test to use in your research you can use this tool to narrow down the options.

• Simply answer a series of multiple choice questions about your research and the tool will suggest statistical tests that are best suited to your research.
How to use SAGE Research Methods

Reading Lists:

• As you explore the platform and find content relevant to you and your research you can create your own reading lists.

• Reading lists can be kept private or shared with others.

• Search a database of shared reading lists by method, discipline or keywords for inspiration and/or ready-made lists.
Writing for Publication (Debbie Epstein, Jane Kenway & Rebecca Boden):
Writing for Publication deals with a number of issues around academic writing and then considers writing refereed journal articles, books and book chapters in detail as well as other less common forms of publication for academics. The aim is to demystify the process and to help you to become a confident, competent, successful and published writer.

How to Design, Write, and Present a Successful Dissertation Proposal (Elizabeth A. Wentz):
This concise hands-on book is essential reading for any graduate student entering the dissertation process in the social or behavioral sciences. The author offers insight into oral presentations of the completed proposal, and the final chapter presents ideas for next steps after the proposal has been presented.
Complete your dissertation and publish your research

How to Get Published (Video):
Learn the steps involved in publishing a book and how supervisors, colleagues, and publishers themselves are integral to the process.

Top Tip: Use Other Dissertations as Models (Video):
David Silverman examines the importance of using past dissertations as models for one's own writing.