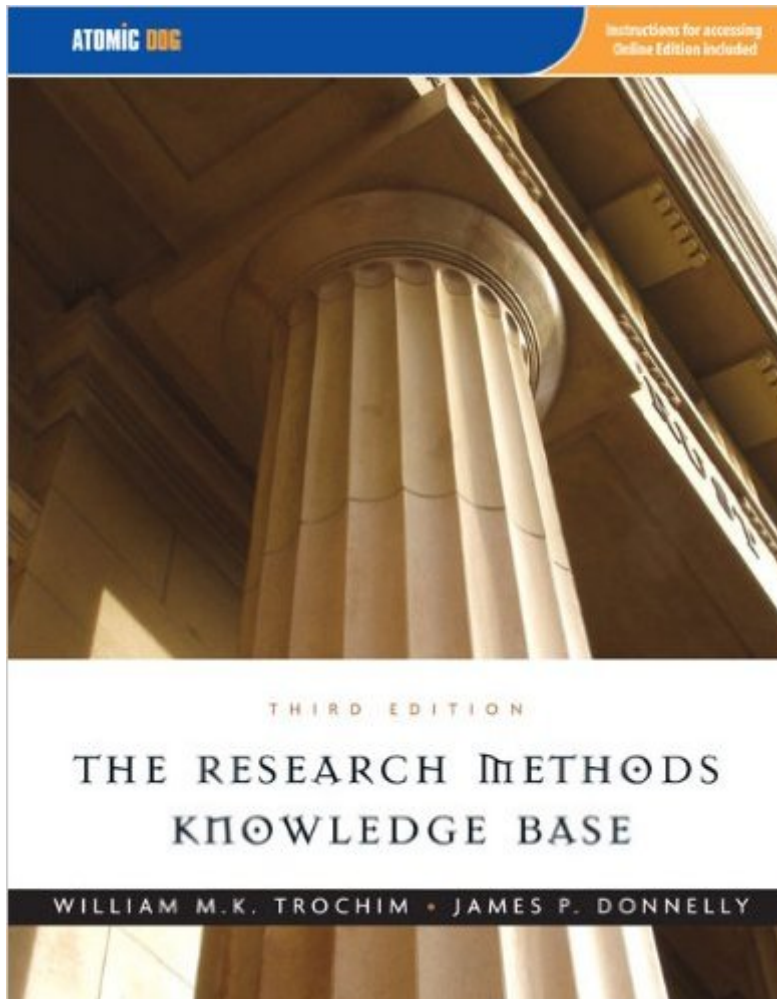


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The Research Methods Knowledge Base, 3rd Edition



Synopsis

Thoroughly updated, the third edition of The Research Methods Knowledge Base provides coverage of quantitative methods and enhanced coverage of qualitative methods. It can be used in a variety of disciplines and is ideal for an introductory comprehensive undergraduate or graduate level course. Through its conversational, informal style it makes material that is often challenging for students both accessible and understandable. The Research Methods Knowledge Base, 3e covers everything from the development of a research question to the writing of a final report, describing both practical and technical issues of sampling, measurement, design and analysis.

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Customer Reviews

Trochim and Donnelly do an excellent job of explaining things concisely so that the reader doesn't spend forever trying to understand things. I'm not sure if this book alone would be perfect, but I would definitely want this book in conjunction with another book by Cozby (Methods in Behavioral Research). Together, these two books are seemingly everything a researcher must have for his research.

I used this book in grad school, and admired its accessible writing and easy-to-understand concepts. However, I keep having to order more copies! I lend it to colleagues, who like it so much they want to keep it, and so my organization has to keep ordering more. If that's not the sign of a good book, I don't know what is.

I wasn't a fan of this book, which a college class had me read from cover to cover. It was shallow to say the least, and didn't provide any truly useful insight into graduate level research and writing requirements. The author spins a web around his wildcard of "Construct Validity," a concept that he beats over the head in almost every paragraph. The repetition is more annoying than reaffirming.

Required by my courses for PhD in ESL, this has really been quite useful and I would recommend getting it even if you do not need it for a class as it has a lot of information. Get the used one and it's still a great deal.

I hated this class and the book didn't really do much to help. There were some parts that I got but for the most part I had no idea what the book was saying. But that could just be me as like I said, I hate this subject and just don't get it.

The author does a good job of adding humor into the writing. However I found that he spent a significant amount of time describing scientific terms that were mathematically predefined and made sense to me and then casually glossing over soft-science terms that I felt needed more explanation. This book is definitely written for social/soft science researcher and not for people with a hard science background. Also, I found several terms in the book that weren't referenced in the index but should have been. I get it, not everything can be defined in the glossary, but any term specific to the subject matter should be listed in the index with the page it was on. Sadly this was not the case for multiple terms that are definitely specific to the topic of the book.

I've taught introduction to quantitative research methods in a social work PhD program for many years, and have used a variety of texts. Students come to our program with widely varying preparations, and previous texts failed to capture one subset or another of students. This is a clearly written text, with good, solid, basic explanations for all the building blocks of social research. The students and I are enjoying The Research Methods Knowledge Base because it both builds on their existing preparation and helps us establish common language. I think it will serve us well as they progress through the program and into their dissertation research projects.

This book is incredibly informative, and that is the biggest problem. Here is an example of the read ahead of you: "...we see that methods can be construed on a continuum from a pure naturalistic-qualitative approach at one end to a pure experimental-quantitative design at the other,

with possibilities for mixing methods emanating from a point in the center of the continuum. It would be relatively simple to use this model..."Realize this; EVERY sentence is written like this. You have to decipher every sentence in this book to understand what the author is getting at. The author attempts to break things down into 'normal' terms, but even those require re-reading... over and over. In the developing world they award a Doctorate for Engineering, Mathematics, or for actually being a Doctor. But here, we give out Doctorates for researching research, making up terms, and then writing a book about it!

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