



# SAGE researchmethods

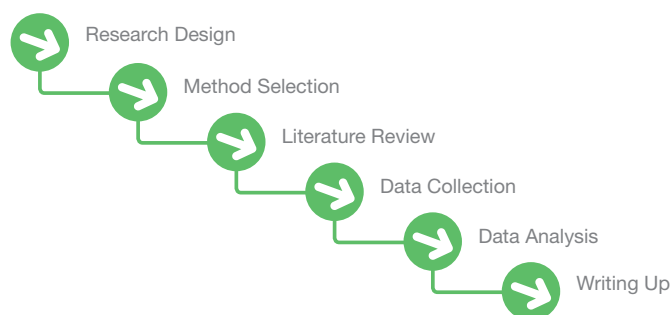
User guide for students

## 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



## 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.

If you're looking for	Try
A quick explanation of a term or concept	Dictionary or Encyclopedia entry
In-depth coverage of a specific aspect of a method	Whole books (Little Green and Little Blue Books can be especially useful for method overviews)
In-depth coverage of a specific aspect of a method	Book chapters that hone in on that topic
Actual examples of methods applied in real research contexts	Journal articles or Cases
Sample datasets for hands-on practice or to use in assignments or exams	Datasets
Methods in action	Video

[sageresearchmethods.com](http://sageresearchmethods.com)



# 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.

For more information on how to use **SAGE Research Methods**, click on the **Help** link in the bottom left corner.

