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# The Practice Of Social Research, 13th Edition



## **Synopsis**

A straightforward, comprehensive, and approachable guide to research as practiced by social scientists, the Thirteenth Edition of Babbie's "gold-standard" text gives you the tools you need to apply research concepts practically, as both a researcher and a consumer. Babbie emphasizes the process by showing you how to design and construct projects, introducing the various observation modes in use today, and answering critical questions about research methods--such as how to conduct online surveys and analyze both qualitative and quantitative data.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Earl R. Babbie graduated from Harvard University before enlisting in the U.S. Marine Corps. He received his Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley, and began teaching shortly thereafter. Credited with defining research methods for the social sciences, Dr. Babbie has written several texts, including the bestselling THE PRACTICE OF SOCIAL RESEARCH and THE BASICS OF SOCIAL RESEARCH.

Replete with examples of studies both "classic" and contemporary. It is a very readable walkthrough of the science of social research. I like also that throughout the book, the author weaves in space for the reader to build their own research proposal. The fact that literature survey is towards the end of the book - is debatable. Many researchers begin their journey with a survey of literature. It would also be useful to link this activity to theory building. The current approach in this chapter is too focused on filters, checklists and critiques. Overall, a great read and contribution to the field of

research.

This book arrived brand new and in good condition. As I was trying to cite this book for a class assignment, I realized that this version of the book is from India. I'm not sure that will make any difference down the road. As of yet, I have not had any issues but I still wanted to let that be known that there are tons of different editions and publications of this book so you should make sure before purchasing that you're getting the one you want. I bought this one because the price was so much better than any other version that I've found. The ISBN on the back of my book is 978-81-315-2011-6. The website listed on the back is [www.cengage.co.in](http://www.cengage.co.in). That was the tip off that this was not from a US publisher.

This book is good as an introduction textbook - it covers a lot of very basic concepts for graduate study, from inquiry paradigms to how to write a paper and do research. The problem is, it covers so much so scantily that other texts could do a much better job by focusing on the issue. For instance, Ch. 17's section on writing essentially says "go study Strunk & White." There is a section on what makes sources credible or scholarly. A lot of basic probability theory peppers the book and thankfully occludes the author's thinly veiled lack of enthusiasm for qualitative methods. This stuff is probably ok for master's students or new grads who are getting their first taste of real research. But if you've ever written more than a literature review, done any sort of legitimate research or taken methodologies in the past, this book feels heavy handed and pandering. Sections on research ethics are barely a page long. If you wanted to learn quantitative methods, there's probably a better text for that too. Essentially this is more or less a grab-bag, catchall intro text for unfocused survey courses for beginning graduate student, with a heavy lean towards bean counting (ok, it's not that bad, but still...) Lastly, it has little to zero re-readability. It will (most likely) not serve as a reference for you to place on your shelf, and go back to in years to come - it will not contain new insights or ideas that you want to refer back to when the time comes, it will only be a constant reminder of the shame and confusion you had when you first purchased the book. Once you have assimilated it's knowledge, it should be the very last textbook that you sell back. Ideally, everything after this should be worth saving.

Nobody is buying this book for any real benefit, it's assigned by social science departments but it covers all the basics and if you get the Kindle version it becomes easy to copy/paste to transfer most of the important terminology into easy printed sheets. The best option is to rent the Kindle

version, grab what you need, and don't worry about it taking up space on your shelf.

This book is worth every penny, as expensive as it is. My prof chose well. Babbie does an excellent job explaining things and putting them in laymen's terms and uses lots of examples. It's laid out really well. I couldn't have survived my research methods course without it.

My teacher forced me to purchase this for the worst class I have ever taken. I paid way too much to then be forced to suffer.

The edition I received was not supposed to be sold in the State. Unfortunately I did not realize it right away. I did not have enough time to exchange it due to class schedule. The book is made very poorly, binding is already falling apart.

Reminds me of how high school textbooks are laid out. Definitions, questions, examples, etc at the end of each chapter. Great setup and layout for exam studying.

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