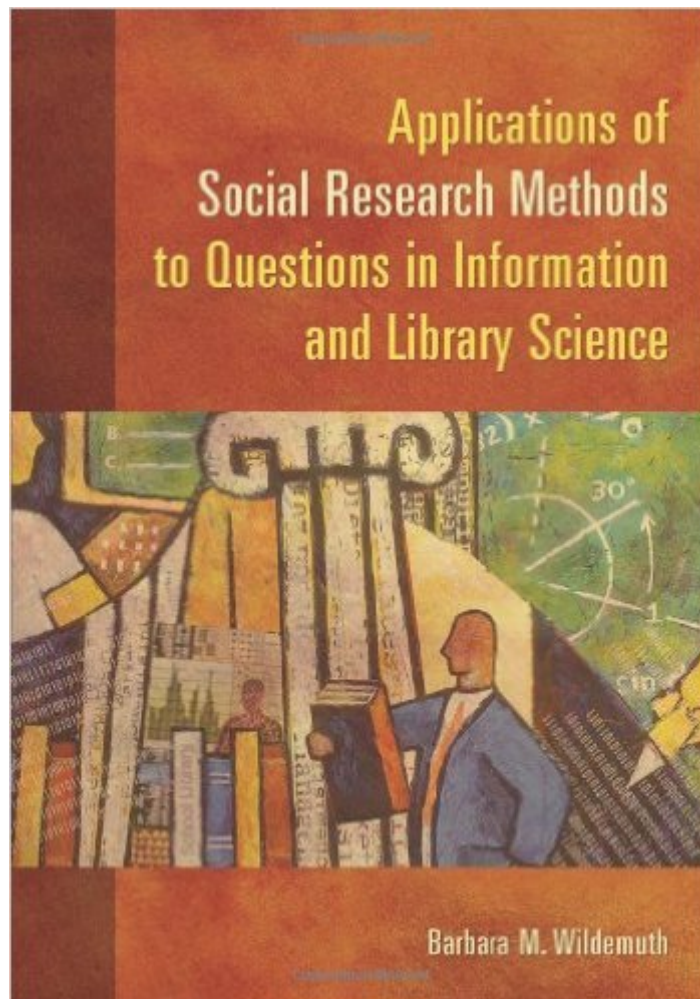


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# Applications Of Social Research Methods To Questions In Information And Library Science



## Synopsis

For many practitioners, best practices are often developed through significant amounts of direct experience. However, they can also be developed through the examination and application of research findings. By critically assessing existing studies within library and information science, both aspiring and experienced professionals can acquire a deeper understanding of available methods, as well as design more effective studies. In what is surely the first of its kind for librarians, Barbara Wildemuth has created a book that mirrors the process of conducting a research study; at the same time, she exposes the reader to a wealth of competing and complementary techniques. Each chapter introduces a particular research method, points out its relative strengths and weaknesses, and provides a critique of two or more exemplary studies. An invaluable guide for librarians, educators and students alike. Section One considers those research questions most often asked in the field of information and library science, and explains how they can arise from practice and direct observation or from existing theories. Section Two covers a variety of research designs, as well as the sampling issues associated with those designs: case studies, naturalistic research, longitudinal studies, Delphi studies, and quasi-experimental and experimental designs. Section Three moves on to methods for collecting data: surveys, various types of interviews, historical and documentary studies, transaction log analysis, diaries, and participant observation. It concludes with a chapter discussing the ways in which any of these methods might be combined for use in a particular study.

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The language in this book is unnecessarily complex, making it difficult to read. The font is a little small as well, also making it difficult to read. The examples included within the chapters to illustrate the concepts are very useful, thankfully. I'm glad I bought it (instead of renting) so I can highlight the heck out of it.

What I like about this textbook is the conversational tone. Not only is it detailed and clear, but it's easy to read. I find it helpful and, for a textbook, readable. Some people might find it a little annoying when the text goes very into detail about certain things and may wish that it were a little more concise. However, too much clarity is better than too little, and this is only one small aspect of the textbook. Overall, it is great.

It is helpful and useful for the researchers and postgraduate students. Giving many real examples for the methods in particular Information studies or science field as well as, it is so useful for other people who are in the different majors. I highly recommend to get this book.

Very helpful book! Easy to read and excellently written. Every researcher should have a copy of this book in their library.

Item came as described and fast. Just in time for class.

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