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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.

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Customer Reviews

I took Quantitative Analysis class in Spring 2013 and used the 11th edition of this book with no problem. No doubt little has changed in social research. I do not understand why they put out new editions every couple of years besides they are part of the culture of corporate greed in this country. Do not support this industry. Buy older used editions and send a message that we as students will no longer be exploited by these savages.

Earl Babbie has the best social research book on the market (and this is coming from a former college instructor). Research is a challenge for most students to understand, and you must be committed to earning the highest grade you can in order for this book to be of assistance to you. If you put in the time, this book will give you a solid foundation of research concepts, terminology and a basic understanding of the way professionals conduct studies. I am dismayed to see the cost of the book, the only reason it gets 4 stars, instead of 5. As with most college textbooks, covering the

entire book in a semester is almost impossible.

I like that it is a paperback, making it more lightweight to carry around in my backpack. However, I thought the inside was the same as the other copies, but no dice. The chapters of my copy are out of order from the rest of the class (same edition, but hardcover). Also the index section is missing a good 20 pages. Overall, buying this again I would spend the extra \$ and just get the regular hardcover edition.

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 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. 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.

I was assigned Babbie's text for my Social Research Methods class. Readings in "Babbie," as we like to call it, are full of references to seminal studies in sociology and psychology. The writing style is both lively and professional, which is great compared to other textbooks. I also admire Babbie's consistent focus on research ethics and reminders of why social research is worth doing in the first place. Paired with examples of good and bad research, Babbie's text has really improved the way I conduct and write about my sociology projects. The only reason I didn't give this version five stars is that I was expecting this, like many textbooks, to be virtually the same as the one actually offered in my bookstore. In actuality, the chapters are organized differently in this international edition. Make sure to compare assigned readings with the chapter titles and page numbers in this one so that you know what to do - for some assignments where I was given a page number, I had to guess!

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