

Research Methods Literature for the Social Sciences and Humanities Researcher Guide

Use this guide if you are:

- A researcher doing post graduate research at Bournemouth University.

This guide is intended to answer your questions about resources for preparing the Research Methodology section of your theses.

Bournemouth University Library provides an extensive collection of print and online resources on many subjects in two locations: The Sir Michael Cobham Library at Talbot Campus and the Bournemouth House Library (BH) on the Lansdowne Campus.

Searching for Information

The best place to start your search is through the library tab on [myBU](#). Here you can:

- Use **mySearch**, the library resources search engine, to search across all of our electronic resources and the library catalogue.
- Search resources not yet added to mySearch and find out about any password access required
- Find help on how to search for information by clicking on the Infoskills online tutorial.

Subject Advice services

Subject Librarians are available to offer advice on information resources for assignments, dissertations or research.

If you need further help finding the information you require on this topic, please use one or more of the Library's Subject Advice services:

- Ask for help at the Subject Advice Point.
- If you need more advice, make an appointment to see your Subject Librarian or any other colleague in the support team. Staff at any of the information points will help you to arrange this
- When staff are not available, send your enquiry to ASK, the online enquiry service, which you can find by going to the Library tab on [myBU](#) or the Library website. Your question will be answered from our database and if you require more help we will reply by e-mail with advice and, where possible, specific recommendations as to possible sources.

Sources: Dictionaries

Dictionaries for to checking the meanings of new term.

A-Z of social research: a dictionary of key social science research concepts. 2003.	001.42 MIL
Dictionary of social and market research. 1996.	658.8303 KOS
SAGE Dictionary of social research methods. 2006.	001.4203 JUP
The Sage dictionary of statistics. 2004.	300.15195 CRA
CREDOReference	via myBU Library tab

Sources: Encyclopaedias

Encyclopaedias providing background information on, or an overview of, a particular topic.

Encyclopedia of evaluation. 2005.	001.403 MAT
Encyclopedia of social measurement. 3 Vols. 2003.	001.42 ENC
International encyclopedia of the social & behavioural sciences. 26 Vols. 2001.	300.3 INT
Sage encyclopedia of social science research methods. 3 Vols. 2003.	001.42 SAG

Sources: Books

The books for Research Methods are held in The Sir Michael Cobham Library, with a smaller collection at the Bournemouth House Library. The Library uses the Dewey Decimal Classification to group together books that cover the same or closely related subjects. To locate texts, use the Library's floor plans in conjunction with the Class Marks relevant to Research Methods as listed below. These numbers – followed by the first three letters of the authors surname – appear on the spine of the books, e.g. 001.422 ENC.

Research	001.4
Research Methods	001.42
Use of Computers in Research	001.420285
Quantitative Methods	001.422
Qualitative Methods	001.43
Case Study Research	001.432
Survey/Descriptive Research	001.433
Simulation Research	001.434
SPSS	005.349

Note that books which address research within a specific subject such as Business, Media or Tourism are located with the subject. These can be located using the Library Catalogue.

Media Research Methods	302.23072
Tourism Research methods	38.072
Business Research Methods	658.0072
Marketing Research	658.83072
Advertising and Public Relations Research	659.1072
Leisure Research	790.072

Source: Style Guides

Style guides produced by universities and scholarly and professional societies set out their requirements for producing written work including rules for spelling, italics and punctuation. These are widely adopted by publishers of scholarly books and journals and set standards for written work within discipline areas such as the humanities and social sciences. Significant style guides are listed here.

Chicago Manual of Style. 14 th ed.	808.02 CHI
MLA handbook for writers of research papers. 6 th ed.	001.42 GIB
MHRA Style Guide: A Handbook for Authors, Editors, and Writers of Theses.	001.42MOD
Publication manual of the American Psychological Association. 5 th ed.	001.42 AME

Citing References

Bournemouth University uses the Harvard System or Name / Date System to cite references in the text and to create bibliographies at the end of a piece of work. A guide to the Bournemouth University Harvard System is available online and in print in Bournemouth House Library and The Sir Michael Cobham Library. In addition a copy is located on the Library Website.

[BU guide to citation in the Harvard style](#)

If you are providing work for publication please follow the guidelines for authors issued to you by your publisher or examining institution if not Bournemouth University.

Handbooks

Scholarly handbooks provide a broad framework to orientate researchers. The following handbooks are of particular value in Research Methods.

Bickerman, L. and Rog, D., 1998. Handbook of Applied Social Research Methods.	001.42 BIC
Denzin, n. and Lincoln, Y.S., 2005. Sage Handbook of qualitative research. 3 rd ed.	001.43 DEN
Hobbs, D. and Wright, R., 2006. Sage Handbook of Fieldwork	001.433 HOB
Kaplan, D., 2004. Sage Handbook of quantitative methodology for the Social Sciences.	001.42 KAP
Lewis-Besk, M.S., International handbooks of quantitative applications in the social sciences. 1993. 5 Vols.	001.422 LEW
Miller, D.C. and Salkind, N.J., 2002. Handbook of research design and social measurement. 6 th ed.	001.42 MIL
Reason, P. and Bradbury, H., 2001. Handbook of action research.	001.43 REA

Sources: Technical Guides

Directed at the experienced researchers technical guides explain in detail how to conduct research using a specific qualitative or quantitative method. Check the Library Catalogue for locations.

Applied Social Research Methods Series Vol. 1 -
Quantitative Applications in the Social Sciences Vol. 1 -
Qualitative Research Methods Series. Vol. 1 -

Sources: Scholarly Readers

Scholarly Readers are edited collections of journal articles and occasionally chapters from books and other forms of publication. Scholarly Readers relevant to Research Methods are:

Qualitative research methods. 2002	001.42 WEI
Survey research methods: a reader. 1989	001.433 SIN

Sage Benchmarks in Social Research Methods

American Tradition in Qualitative Research. 2001. 4 Vols.	001.430973DEN
Biographical research Methods. 2005. 4 Vols.	300.722 MIL
Case Study Research. 2006. 4 Vols.	001.432 DAV
Ethnography. 2001. 4 Vols.	305.8 BRY
Evaluation Research Methods. 2004. 4 Vols.	001.42 STE
European Tradition in Qualitative Research. 2003. 4 Vols.	001.43094 EUR
Fieldwork. 2004. 4 Vols.	001.433 POL
Fundamentals of Action Research. 2004. 4 Vols.	001.42 COO
Historical methods in the Social Sciences. 2005. 4 Vols.	001.42 HAL
Interviewing. 2003. 4 Vols.	001.433 FIE
Measurement. 2006. 4 Vols.	001.433 BAR
Qualitative Research. 4 Vols.	001.43 BRY
Qualitative Research II. 2006. 4 Vols.	001.43 BRY
Quantitative Social Science. 2005. 4 Vols.	001.433 SCO
Questionnaires. 2004. 4 Vols.	001.433 BUL
Visual Research Methods. 2005. 4 Vols.	001.42 HAM

Sources: Journals

Journals are available in electronic form. In those exceptional cases where journals are not available in an electronic format, print copies are retained on the Ground Floor of The Sir Michael Cobham Library. Articles from titles listed below in **bold** are currently only available via Inter-Library Loan.

Alerting services, such as ZETOC provide a convenient means of being notified when new issues are published. Contact your Subject Librarian for more information about these.

Titles available in print format can be located on **Library Catalogue** by Title, by Keyword or by Subject. Titles in electronic format can be accessed from the *A-Z of e-Journals*.

Use the range of online databases to help you locate specific information in past copies of the journals.

Action Research
 American Journal of Evaluation
 Applied Psychological Measurement
 Behavior Research Methods
 Building Research Capacity [e-journal]
Cato Journal
 Critical Discourse Studies
 Cultural Studies <=> Critical Methodologies
 Discourse & Society
 Discourse Analysis Online [e-journal]
Educational Action Research
 Educational and Psychological Measurement
 Electronic Journal of Business Research Methods [e-journal]
 Evaluation
 Evaluation and the Health Professions
 Evaluation Review
 Evaluation Journal of Australasia [e-journal]
Evidence & Policy. Policy Press
 Field Methods
 Forum: Qualitative Social Research [e-journal]
 Graduate Journal of Social Science [e-journal]
 Health Services and Outcomes Research Methodology
 Innovation: The European journal of Social Sciences
 International Journal of Public Opinion Research
International Journal of Qualitative -Studies in Education
International Journal of Research and Method in Education
International Journal of Social -Research Methodology
 Journal of Computer Mediated Communication [e-journal]
 Journal of Contemporary Ethnography
 Journal of Mixed Methods Research
Methodology
 Methods of Psychological Research [e-journal]
 Organizational Research Methods
 Medical Informatics and Decision Making [e-journal]
 Philosophy of the Social Sciences
 Public Opinion Quarterly
 Qualitative Health Research
 Qualitative Inquiry
 Qualitative Research
 Quality & Quantity
 Research Methods Forum [e-journal]
 Simulation
 Simulation & Gaming
 Social Research Update [e-journal]
 Social Science Computer Review
 Social Science Information
Sociological Methodology
 Sociological Methods & Research
 Sociological Research Online [e-journal]
 Survey Methods Newsletter [e-journal]
 Survey Research Newsletter [e-Journal]
 Western Journal of Nursing Research

Contact Details

Bournemouth House Library

19 Christchurch Road, Bournemouth BH1 3LH UK
Library renewals, information and subject advice:
Tel: +44 (0) 1202 965959.

The Sir Michael Cobham Library

Talbot Campus, Fern Barrow, Poole, BH12 5BB, UK
Library renewals, information and subject advice:
Tel: +44 (0) 1202 965959.

Also at The Sir Michael Cobham Library:

Additional Learning Needs Service: Tel: +44 (0) 1202 965663
Learning Support Reception Desk: Tel: +44 (0) 1202 965663
Language Centre Advice: Tel: +44 (0) 1202 965300
IT Service Desk: Tel: +44 (0) 1202 965515

AS Information Line (24hr)

Tel: +44 (0) 1202 965959
Press 0 for enquiries
Press 5 for library renewals

Finding Tools: Dissertations

Dissertations and theses produced within the United Kingdom can be located using the *Index to Theses*. PhD. theses produced in the UK can be obtained via the Inter-Library Loan system. Many are supplied in microform and can be read using microform reader printer facilities in The Sir Michael Cobham Library. Theses produced outside the UK can be located using *ProQuest Dissertations and Theses* and *WorldCat*, a general bibliographic database.

ProQuest Dissertations and Theses via [myBU](#) Library tab
Index to Theses [ASLIB] via [myBU](#) Library tab
WorldCat via [myBU](#) Library tab

Finding Tools: Databases

ISI Citation Indexes

The ISI Citation Indexes provide access to a broad range of scholarly literature including research methods. The ISI Citation Indexes can be used in two ways:

- To search for articles which discuss or use in their research particular research methods such as *participant observation* or *critical incident technique*.
- If you have identified a significant scholarly article which discusses or uses a research method you wish to employ, or which has provided a foundation for your thinking in this area, you can search for other articles that have cited this article. This leads you to articles whose content closely matches the subject you are searching for and enables you to follow developments in the literature for the period following the publication of your original article.

Arts and Humanities Citation Index	via myBU Library tab
Social Science Citation Index	via myBU Library tab

SAGE Journals Online

SAGE Journals Online contains the full text of many titles on the topic of Research Methods and is an essential tool in researching the journal literature.

In addition there are databases that address a specific subject area, check the Subject Listing of Databases on the Library Website or Subject Guides.

Finding Tools: Researchers

Databases which locate researchers based on the published research output in the scholarly literature. In addition, CUDOS enables searches for academic staff in Commonwealth Universities working in particular research areas.

Commonwealth Universities Database Online Service - (CUDOS)	via myBU Library tab
ISI Highly Cited	via myBU Library tab

Finding Tools: Current Research

Current research can be located via the major funding bodies for research in the Social Sciences and Humanities in the UK. In addition *SOSIG* provides an excellent resource to locate research and research centers both in the UK and internationally.

Arts and Humanities Research Council [AHRC]	[http://www.ahrc.ac.uk]
British Academy	[http://www.britac.ac.uk]
Economic and Social Research Council [ESRC]	[http://www.esrc.ac.uk]
INTUTE	[http://www.intute.ac.uk]

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