



Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods Approaches

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The eagerly anticipated **Fourth Edition** of the title that pioneered the comparison of qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods research design is here! For all three approaches, Creswell includes a preliminary consideration of philosophical assumptions, a review of the literature, an assessment of the use of theory in research approaches, and reflections about the importance of writing and ethics in scholarly inquiry. He also presents the key elements of the research process, giving specific attention to each approach. The **Fourth Edition** includes extensively revised mixed methods coverage, increased coverage of ethical issues in research, and an expanded emphasis on worldview perspectives.

Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods Approaches Details

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Nikhil Gupta says

John W. Creswell is a Professor of Educational Psychology and teaches courses and writes about qualitative methodology and mixed methods research. He has been at the University of Nebraska- Lincoln for 30 years and has authored 11 books many of which focus on research design, qualitative research, and mixed methods research and are translated into many languages and used around the world.

This is a brilliant instructional book written for students and experienced field researchers. If anyone has little or no understanding of choosing a research approach to probe into his/her topic, Creswell comes to rescue.

Overview of the chapters;

This book is divided into two parts. Part I consist of steps that researchers need to reflect on before they expand their proposals or plans for research. Part II discusses the various sections of a proposal.

A selection of a research Design: In this chapter, author begins by defining quantitative, qualitative and mixed methods as research designs. These designs are plans for a study, and they include three significant elements: philosophical assumptions, strategies of inquiry, and specific research methods.

Review of the Literature: It is vital to comprehensively review the literature on topic before one designs proposal. Thus one needs to start with a researchable topic and then investigate the literature using the steps developed in this chapter.

Writing Strategies and Ethical Considerations: Finally, in the first part, the author turns to ethical issues and discuss these not as abstract ideas, but as considerations that need to be anticipated in all segments of the research progression.

In Part II, I turn to the components of designing the research proposal. Chapters 5 through 10 address steps in this process.

The Introduction: This introduction comprises the notion identifying the research problem or issue, enclosing this problem within the existing literature, pointing out insufficiencies in the literature and aiming the study for a specific audience. This chapter offers an efficient method for designing a scholarly introduction to a proposal or study.

The Purpose Statement: In this chapter, researcher learns how to write this statement for quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods studies. Readers can find scripts that help in designing and writing these statements.

Research Questions and Hypotheses: In this chapter, the reader learns how to write both qualitative and quantitative research questions and hypotheses. And also discovers how to utilize both forms in writing mixed methods questions and hypotheses.

Quantitative Methods: Quantitative methods involve the procedure of collecting, analyzing, interpreting, and writing the outcome of a study. In this chapter, the reader learns the specific procedures for designing survey or experimental methods that need to go into a research proposal. Checklists provided in the chapter help to

ensure that all vital steps are incorporated.

Qualitative Procedures: Purposeful sampling, collection of open-ended data, analysis of text or pictures, representation of information in figures and tables, and personal interpretation of the findings all inform qualitative procedures. This chapter advances steps in designing qualitative procedures into a research proposal. Moreover it also contains a checklist for making sure that you cover all essential procedures.

Mixed Methods: Six types of mixed methods designs are stressed along with a discussion about criteria for selecting one of them based on timing, weight, mixing, and the use of theory. Figures are offered that suggest visuals that the proposal developer can design and include in a proposal.

Researchers find a sort detail to learn mixed methods research as practiced today and the types of designs that might be used in a research proposal.

This book is an excellent introduction to research design for qualitative, quantitative and mixed- methods designs. It explains all the aspects of a research design and takes reader through each one, including the literature review, research question and hypotheses. Also, the first chapter goes through the multiple theoretical viewpoints from which research proceeds, therefore the readers come to know different paradigms. It also has lots of models, examples and exercises to work through.

This book can be effectively useful in many ways. The author goes to enormous lengths to offer illustrations from real studies to exemplify the concepts which are very useful; he also does a decent job promoting mixed methods research within the context of its recent history.

Interspersed throughout the pages are tables, suggested writing activities, examples, and informative step-by-step sidebars pertinent to specific topics. Each chapter is recapitulated and additional suggested readings to investigate are listed.

In short, it is strongly recommend for any student who is engaged in research work or anyone interested in putting together a good proposal, or an instructor who wants a well-written foundational text. In addition, this book is an excellent resource to field researchers who have experience in one research approach but not in the other two. Therefore, it is highly recommend for both inexperienced and experienced researchers.

Timothy Decker says

I know this is an important work in the field of research, particularly in the social sciences. But this was not relevant for me. That makes it too narrow in its usefulness.

Michael Gerald says

This is another of the primary textbooks I use in my research methods class and it is a decent supplement to Alan Bryman's book, Social Research Methods.

Eric Herr says

This is a re-read for my Capstone. Found it enjoyable and valuable the first time around and imagine it will serve me well as a reference book the second time around.

Babak says

An excellent reference book for writing good designs for your research, be it a master or a phd. I wish it also included design science.

Fred says

Worst. Book. Ever.

Seriously. If this wasn't a required textbook I'd never waste my time on it. So, if you have any control over whether or not you read this book STAY AWAY. I think the writer is one of those people that just likes to hear himself talk. Unfortunately, he's managed to convince people like publishers, editors, and academics that if he uses a bunch of big words in order to state simplistic ideas that it somehow makes the stuff coming out of his mouth actually mean something.

I hate books that are written in the most dry way possible. There is nothing that says because you have a serious topic you have to present it as being as exciting as a hysterectomy.

Bahia says

This book is a great introduction to qualitative and quantitative research methods. It's easy to read and understand. It focuses more on the overall parts of research and a research paper and the differences between qualitative and quantitative approaches. It takes the reader through the fundamentals of selecting your research, reviewing the literature, using theory, and writing strategies and then goes into more details in designing and writing your research. It addresses the introduction, purpose statement, and research question, which are critical to research design, and then reviews qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods designs. The only thing the book is missing is more detail about how to actually do the qualitative and quantitative procedures. A beginner in statistical methods and qualitative coding will need to look elsewhere. Overall, this book is good for beginning researchers.

Scott says

This book was at times way above my head as a student, sometimes a bit repetitive. In the end, if you are trying to learn about research design, at the beginning stages, then this is a good resource. It shouldn't be your only resource, but one of several.

Ridhorahman says

Dalam proses penelusuran literatur, Creswell meminta peneliti untuk memperhatikan kredibilitas suatu sumber sebagai syarat untuk dijadikan sumber penelitian. Dalam pengerjaan tinjauan pustaka, Creswell cenderung tak terlalu merekomendasikan disertasi sebagai materi tinjauan pustaka karena kualitasnya yang berbeda-beda (hlm 47). Menurut saya argumentasi yang disampaikan Creswell tidak begitu tepat karena secara objektif semua jenis literatur tentu mempunyai kualitas yang beragam. Artikel akademis baik berupa disertasi, jurnal, makalah, atau website tentu memiliki standar kualitas yang tak sama.

Jika dikomparasikan dengan jurnal ilmiah, tentu sebuah karya disertasi mengalami proses pengerjaan yang panjang lewat serangkaian pengujian oleh pakar di bidangnya. Bahkan, pengerjaan disertasi dibarengi oleh proses pembelajaran di kelas sebagaimana mahasiswa pada umumnya. Artinya, seorang peneliti pasti memperoleh internalisasi pengetahuan yang lebih luas dibandingkan skrup penelitian disertasinya semata. Oleh karena itu, asumsi yang muncul justru kualitas sebuah disertasi lebih terjamin dibandingkan karya-karya akademis lainnya. Namun, pendapat Creswell terkait perbedaan kualitas tentu benar karena institusi tempat lahirnya karya disertasi punya standar mutu yang berbeda-beda.

Menurut saya, Creswell perlu menambahkan argumentasi terhadap disertasi. Menurut pendapat saya, pada dasarnya disertasi adalah karya akademis yang komprehensif yang mencoba melingkupi secara utuh suatu pertanyaan penelitian. Oleh karenanya, dalam tataran teknis pembuatan tinjauan pustaka penulis tak begitu mudah untuk menangkap gagasan inti dari tulisan tersebut. Oleh karenanya, aspek kerumitan tulisan menjadi alasan lain mengapa disertasi berada di poin ke lima dari rekomendasi Creswell. Hal ini jelas berbeda dengan Jurnal nasional atau internasional yang lebih ringkas dibanding disertasi. Karena alasan teknis soal batasan jumlah halaman, otomatis suatu artikel jurnal menyampaikan gagasan utamanya secara ringkas dan padat. Atas alasan jumlah halaman pula suatu disertasi menjadi begitu panjang. Namun tentunya, syarat batas halaman bagi sebuah disertasi bukan ditujukan untuk memanjanglembarkan penjelasan semata, tetapi merupakan ruang ekspresi luas agar penulis disertasi mampu menjelaskan secara komprehensif suatu kasus yang diangkatnya.

Pendapat Creswell yang memposisikan jurnal di tingkatan paling atas tentu berasal dari pandangan umum tentang proses seleksi tulisan yang begitu ketat, apalagi untuk jurnal internasional kenamaan. Creswell hanya merekomendasikan jurnal ternama dengan kredibilitas baik untuk dijadikan tinjauan pustaka. Pasalnya banyak terdapat jurnal “abal-abal” yang tak memenuhi standar kualitas jurnal internasional. Bahkan jurnal yang terbaik adalah yang melakukan pengindeksan karya pada lembaga seperti SCOPUS, Web of Science atau lembaga pengindex lainnya (pengalaman dosen Universitas Mataram). Secara umum, mahasiswa doktoral di Indonesia didorong untuk menghasilkan tulisan jurnal internasional, terlebih bagi staf pengajar kampus. Dari berbagai pengalaman yang ada, proses pengajuan hingga tulisan terbit bisa memakan waktu satu tahun dengan proses seleksi-revisi yang panjang. Bahkan, beberapa kampus dalam negeri memberikan tutorial dan pendampingan khusus bagi para sivitasnya yang hendak “menembus” jurnal internasional. Oleh karenanya, tak heran tulisan jurnal menjadi rekomendasi teratas Creswell.

Peringkat prioritas menurut Creswell adalah buku yang berkaitan dengan topik. Mengenai pandangan ini saya mengkhawatirkan tentang kualitas buku-buku terbitan dalam negeri yang beredar di pasaran. Terlebih sekarang begitu banyak penerbit independen yang memproduksi buku mandiri. Kualitas suatu buku sangat bergantung kepada kualitas penerbitnya, oleh karena itu tak heran muncul beberapa penerbit yang dianggap kredibel atas rekam jejaknya dalam menghasilkan buku-buku yang berkualitas. Namun, saya tak menyatakan bahwa kualitas buku penerbit kecil/independen lebih rendah dibanding penerbit besar atau terkenal. Pada poin ini saya menilai, argumentasi Creswell perlu dilengkapi lebih rinci tentang standar kualitas suatu buku, sehingga dalam urutan prioritas literatur ia layak duduk di peringkat kedua.

Masih berkaitan dengan penjelasan Creswell tentang buku, saya merasa belum tercerahkan tentang tipe buku berdasarkan jumlah penulisnya. Dalam penjelasannya, Creswell mengatakan “pertimbangkan beberapa buku yang berhubungan dengan satu topik yang ditulis oleh seorang pengarang atau sekelompok pengarang, atau buku-buku yang berisi bab-bab yang ditulis oleh pengarang yang berbeda-beda” (hlm 47). Menurut saya, buku yang berisi kumpulan tulisan orang-orang (semacam bunga rampai) sulit saya identifikasi keterkaitan antara teori yang dijelaskan pada halaman pendahuluan yang dikerjakan editor dengan kumpulan tulisan yang ada. Kadang saya merasa tulisan tersebut tidak relevan dengan tema besar yang usung buku tersebut. Sebenarnya harappann saya, penjelasan Creswell bisa lebih diperdalam, apalagi ia sudah menjelaskan perbedaan jenis-jenis buku berdasarkan jumlah penulis. Khususnya pula, terkait pertanyaan saya ketika harus

menuangkan suatu buku yang terdiri dari banyak penulis untuk dijadikan tinjauan pustaka. Sementara dalam buku Creswell “Educational Research: Planning, Conducting, and Evaluating Quantitative and Qualitative Research” (2008) menggambarkan lebih rinci tentang material tinjauan pustaka yang disebutkan Creswell di atas. Ia menjelaskan tentang handbook, book, statistical indexes, databases, dll. Jika pada buku Research Design, Creswell menjelaskan tentang skala prioritas dalam memilih literatur. Pada buku Educational Research, ia membuat dua kemungkinan yakni: high standard to ensure the quality dan ideas appear first (hlm. 94). Artinya, ia ingin mengatakan tak ada yang keliru hendak dimulai dari penelusuran sumber tersebut.

Di akhir saya ingin mengatakan relevansi urutan yang disampaikan Creswell dalam konteks iklim akademis di Indonesia. Asumsi sederhana saya, dengan kualitas pendidikan yang berbeda antara Amerika dengan Indonesia, tentu perlu adaptasi yang tepat atas urutan prioritas literatur yang Creswell ajukan. Atau dalam perspektif yang lain, perlu pengadaptasian atau penjelasan tambahan dari pakar metodologi penelitian yang faham konteks Indonesia.

Sebagai pembaca pemula dalam bidang metodologi ilmu sosial, saya merasa terbantu dengan penjelasan Creswell tentang langkah memulai penelitian. Bab sebelumnya tentang metode penelitian dan bab ini tentang literature review menjadi materi yang komprehensif tentang pentingnya fondasi literatur dalam mendisain proposal. Ia meminta peneliti untuk mengaitkan pemahaman tentang metode penelitian yang dikaitkan dengan penyusunan literature review agar peneliti menggunakannya secara konsisten.

Sebagaimana pandangan Creswell bahwa proses tinjauan pustaka ini hendak menjawab dua pertanyaan inti sebuah rencana riset, yakni apakah penelitian dapat dan layak diteliti. Pengerjaan ini akan memunculkan perdebatan dalam literatur-literatur sehingga peneliti mendapati celah yang ada dari sejumlah literatur tersebut. Proses ini dilakukan dengan menuangkannya ke dalam tulisan atau model literature map. Analisis dan respons yang saya buat didominasi pada subbab prioritas dalam memilih literatur. Saya menilai penjelasan tentang 6 jenis literatur yang disampaikan Creswell perlu pengadaptasian atau penjelasan tambahan dari pakar metodologi penelitian yang faham konteks Indonesia.

Cheryl says

Excellent guide to the types of research designs and methods and all they entail. The explanations are clear and concise, the examples are helpful, and the language throughout is straightforward and highly readable. Great text!

Lauren says

This is an incredibly useful and thorough guide for graduate students or early career scholars designing their first research projects or developing projects using methods that are new to them. The fifth edition includes readable descriptions and definitions for approaches to research, methods for data collection and data analysis, and guidance for writing the design and results of a project. I especially appreciated the visual elements of this edition that show the correlation between different aspects of a project and how different approaches relate to one another.

This guide is a strong starting point for anyone starting qualitative research for the first (or second, third, fourth...) time.

Melissa Cowder says

This textbook was used in one of my college courses. Though a little dry, it is an informative book and provides great direction on researching writing and structuring.

Timothy Darling says

Creswell, John. *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative and Mixed Methods Approaches*. Los Angeles: SAGE Publications, Ltd., 2009.

Research Design as an introduction to dissertation planning is a rather difficult and technical read. In that way, it is probably quite appropriate, since a dissertation is a massive undertaking and deserves to be introduced in all its complexity. The introduction of the philosophies behind the different methods is a little like jumping into the deep end of the pool. Fortunately the explanations in the book tend to enhance the reader's understanding of these philosophical bases for research. In that way, one gathers that there is no one way to study for a particular philosophical leaning. Instead, the approach is guided by the question being answered, by the purpose stated.

The primary value of *Research Design* is as a reference tool. Like many such tools, it is only useful once a familiarity with it has been established. So, though reading *Research Design* was tedious and fraught with much the average researcher will never use, in order to discover what is useful, the survey is necessary. I am hoping that as I research for my dissertation, I will find returning to it to be a helpful practice. I suspect, however, that its usefulness may be in merely introducing an idea and then guiding me to further resources to understand that idea better.

Joy says

This book is a must-have for budding scholars who need to know the format of a quality research proposal. I'm at the end of my program, so there are many lessons that are presented in this book that are review for me. I wish I had this book when I began my program because it clears up many of my initial questions. For example, there is a section that clarifies the Research Problem versus the Research Questions, a line that I had a hard time differentiating when I started this doctoral journey. Not only will I be using this in this class, but I will pull it out for proposal and dissertation, and likely recommend it to my future students.

Hans says

Grrrr.... Books like this are about as exciting as reading through an obscure instruction manual for a put-it-together-yourself-kiddie-play-place. I get what the author is trying to accomplish. It is just agonizing to read cover to cover like a novel. Books like this should be probably referenced continually instead of read straight through. Context and application are the only way something like this will be helpful.

That being said let me also suggest never to buy "ebooks" from XPLANA, they suck, big time. Buy a hard copy. They won't let you put the ebook on any ereader devices like a kindle and you have to use their special software which means you are limited to reading the entire text books on a computer. Which if anyone who has tried knows, hours of reading on an LCD monitor will make you want carve out your eyes with a dull pencil. Do yourself a favor and buy the hard copy. You will be glad you did. I regret buying the ebook

because now I will likely never use it as a reference just because XPLANA has done a thorough job of making it not user-friendly. Curse you XPLANA!!!!
