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# Qualitative Research Design: An Interactive Approach (Applied Social Research Methods)



## Synopsis

Qualitative Research Design: An Interactive Approach, Third Edition provides researchers and students with a user-friendly, step-by-step guide to planning qualitative research. Joseph A. Maxwell shows how the components of design interact with each other, and provides a strategy for creating coherent and workable relationships among these design components, highlighting key design issues. Written in an informal, jargon-free style, the book incorporates examples and hands-on exercises. "This book uses everyday language that will captivate students' attention and embed practical knowledge to supplement the

technical." - Gaetane Jean-Marie, University of Oklahoma

"The key strengths of the text are the passion and the enthusiasm that Dr. Maxwell has for qualitative research after all these years. I feel I can also utilize these concepts on my own research team and take them out of the classroom and into research team meetings with

colleagues." - Deborah Gioia, University of Maryland, Baltimore

"I really liked this book. I found myself taking notes and saying "yes" so many times because Maxwell captures the research process so well and provides many points worth quoting. As a faculty mentor, I particularly see the value of this book for my students who are conducting qualitative

dissertations." - Mary S. Enright, Capella University

"The text is incredibly engaging and practical...So many of the issues raised in the book are central to qualitative research, yet often not explicitly discussed in 'public' venues." - David Carlone, The University of North Carolina at Greensboro

"I particularly like the interactive focus and believe that helps students to more realistically engage qualitative research design. It certainly lives up to its billing as a good guidebook, and I appreciate the fact that the author really concentrates on useful content, exercises, insights, and examples, and leaves extensive theory discussions to

others." - Sharon L. Caudle, Texas A & M University

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The book arrived on time and was appropriately packaged. No problem there. As a doctoral student at the stage of preparing a dissertation proposal I was eager to read this text because of the last chapter on research proposals. The author did not disappoint. After only a first cover to cover reading of the third edition I was able to get three important takeaways (organization tools) which I've already started implementing: design mapping, using matrices and developing a proposal argument. I find the book extremely useful because it addresses the principle of coherence from not so much from a writing skills perspective but from an integrative research design perspective. In fact, this is consistent with the subtitle "an interactive approach". Both the tools and the design map of the book (goals, conceptual framework, research questions, methods and validity) helped me see what the key elements of my project are about, how to put them together and why they are important. Throughout my first reading I felt like the author was speaking to me personally and trying to walk me through qualitative research design process holding my hand yet leading me to a point where I wanted to do (and have started) the exercises so I could develop my own argument and let go of his hand at some point. This is all any student of research (let alone qualitative researcher) could hope for.

Maxwell's approach to qualitative research follows two basic lines: constant, systematic reflection; and iteration. His proposition is consistent with ethnographic approaches to research, but people with a heavier leaning towards quantitative methods may find Maxwell's propositions hard to find. Particularly, because he claims that self-reflection requires the researcher to be forthcoming about

her own emotions, not only her thoughts. This position contradicts empirical approaches that claim the researcher should be purely rational. Perhaps the author could also expand his methodological framework by incorporating other aspects in the formation of the theoretical framework, such as the life experiences of the researcher and the inputs from the research participants. Overall, the book is a great introductory resource to qualitative research. I highly recommend it.

This book taught me what two years of graduate school didn't. It was great for coming up with ideas for research designs beyond the typical focus group or interview. I used it for my master's thesis in journalism. For every example, it offers information on how to justify your use of that method in your defense.

Such a great and helpful text. The only reason I gave 4 stars had nothing to do with the content of the book. This was my first e-reader buy and I wasn't aware that the "pages" would not be the same as the book. It's pretty much impossible to cite anything without just going to get a physical copy of the book and searching for page numbers. But that has been my only gripe.

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I have always been a fan of Maxwell. I read the second edition when I was introduced to qualitative. Fabulous read!

I needed this book for my Intro to Qual Res class. I intend to read it multiple times before the end.

Solid introductory text for higher education students who are new to qualitative research. Will be referring to this book throughout my research process.

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