DESCRIPTION

In *The Practical Researcher*, Dana S. Dunn's student-friendly writing style and personal tone provide readers with a practical and engaging introduction to research methods in psychology. Using basic theory, solid research practices, and step-by-step techniques, the author leads students through the process of conducting a project from start to finish. The importance of learning to search, read, and critique the psychological literature, as well as writing clearly about it, are emphasized throughout. Boxed features called "Research Foundations" present key issues faced by researchers, allowing students to ponder various controversies, while numerous examples, practical tips, and applied material bring the process of doing research to life. Packed with useful decision trees, tables, checklists, and illustrations, this clear and precise book will equip students with the tools they need to carry out their research successfully.

FEATURES

- Step-by-step approach leads students through the process of developing and conducting a research project (solo or in a group) from start to finish, from generating a topic to writing an APA style report
- "Doing Research" decision trees open each chapter and guide students through the active learning exercises that inform the research process
- Research Foundations boxes explore common issues encountered by researchers and use examples to bring research to life
• Practical tools and tips for doing research appear throughout such as writing an experimental script, operationalizing independent and dependent variables, and creating manipulation checks, among many others

• Over 40 Active Learning Exercises help students build practical skills such as creating a project timeline, developing a peer research contract, using a random numbers table, and reporting results in poster or paper form, among many others

• Generating Research Ideas section provides easy to follow guidelines for developing ideas by using freewriting, keeping a research notebook, or brainstorming research ideas alone or as a research team

• Critical thinking is emphasized when searching, reading, and writing about psychological literature

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About the Author

Dana S. Dunn earned his B.A. in psychology from Carnegie Mellon University and received his Ph.D. in social psychology from the University of Virginia. Former chair of the Psychology Department and Philosophy Department at Moravian College, he is currently Assistant Dean for Special Projects and Professor of Psychology. The author or editor of 17 books and over 120 journal articles, chapters, and book reviews, his scholarship examines teaching, learning, and liberal education, as well as the social psychology of disability. A fellow of the American Psychological Association (APA) and the Association for Psychological Science (APS), Dunn is a former president of the Society for the Teaching of Psychology (APA Division 2).

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New to Edition

• The book and all examples in it adhere to the 6th edition of the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (APA, 2010).

• A new, annotated APA-style sample student paper (Appendix A).
• A new example (texting while driving) is used to illustrate the research loop of experimentation (chapter 1).

• A detailed example critique of a student-generated research topic to improve the idea (chapter 2).

• A new participant observation examples (chapter 2).

• A sample email to a professional psychologist requesting information (chapter 3).

• Advice on finding and referencing doi (Digital Object Identifier) numbers for research sources (chapter 3).

• A new outline based on the APA-style student paper (chapter 4).

• Additional examples for writing operational definitions (chapter 4).

• Recommendations on using random number generators (chapter 6).

• Encouragement to try online survey software (e.g., SurveyMonkey) and to consult quality websites for online personality measures (chapter 7).

• Additional discussion of experience sampling as well as internet-based research approaches (chapter 7).

• A rubric designed to help students plan and deliver oral presentations (chapter 9).

• Tips for giving an effective PowerPoint presentation (chapter 9).

• A sample APA-style poster done by a student and faculty member (chapter 9).

• Discussion of psychology as a "hub science" (chapter 10).

• A new sample student vita (Appendix D).

• Over 40 new or updated citations.

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