

The Research Plan

A detailed description of procedures

- ✓ Justification for hypothesis
- ✓ Detailed presentation of research steps
 - ✓ Choosing data
 - ✓ Collecting data
 - ✓ Analyzing data
- ✓ Estimated time for major steps

Quantitative Research

- Plan comes form hypothesis
- Hypothesis determines
 - Group
 - Measuring instruments
 - Design
 - Procedures
 - Statistical techniques



Purpose of Research Plan

Forces careful thinking

Saves time

Facilitates evaluation of
the study

Provides structure

Reduces mistakes

Identifies flaws

Results in high quality
study

Gives suggestions

Provides detailed
procedures

Anticipate

- What might go awry?
- How to overcome obstacles

Talk to other researchers

Consider

- Ethics
- Legalities
- Strategies

Ethics

- NEVER put research above the well being of the participants

Legalities

Read Tables 3.1 and 3.2 several times

- Informed consent
- National Research Act or 1974
- Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974—Buckley Amendment



Qualitative Research and Ethics

- Interaction between researchers and participants
- Participants more interested in study
- Participants' behavior changes more easily
- Involved with research at all levels
- Issues of interpretation and analysis



The Research Site

- Who gives permission?
- What procedures are in place?
- What forms need to be filed? When?
- Discuss the research plan—in person
- Inform all shareholders
- Inform participants

A graphic of a spiral-bound notebook with a brown cover and a light beige page. The spiral binding is on the left side. The text is centered on the page.

What's in it for Them?

How will the participants benefit?

How will the site be “a better place?”

How will shareholders be informed?

Components of the Plan

- Introduction
- Short Review of Literature
- Methods
- Data Analysis
- Time Schedule
- Budget (if appropriate)

Introduction

Statement of Topic—Did you

1. state clearly
2. Provide background
3. Provide rationale
4. Provide significance



Short Review of Literature

- Provide overview
- Provide references
- Situate topic in context
- Strengthen significance
- Summarize and give implications
- Identify hypothesis



Methods

- Define kind of study
- Identify participants
- Identify instruments
- Identify materials
- Explain design
- Explain procedures

Data Analysis

- Simple tabulation?
- Statistical methods?
- Qualitative interpretations (coding)?

DECIDE BEFORE COLLECTING DATA

Time Schedule

Look at Table 3.3

- Be reasonable
- Work backwards
- Stick to the schedule

Budget

Follow funding guidelines

Non-funded?

- How much will this cost you?
- How can you keep costs down?
- Can you afford the study?



Revision and Improvement

- Have others read and critique your plan
- Spend time doing a pilot study
- Be prepared for major and minor revisions to plan