

Preface

In an increasingly data-driven world, it is more important than ever for students as well as professionals to better understand the process of research, from the initial asking of questions through the analysis and interpretation of data leading to a final report, and everything in between.

100 Questions (and Answers) About Research Methods is an attempt to summarize the most important questions that lay in those in-between spaces that one could ask about research methods while providing an answer as well.

It was written because I have noticed in my own years of teaching that many students and other professionals need a short review or a book to steer them in the right direction as to what topics they need to focus on and where they might look to find further information.

This is a short book and intended for those individuals who need a refresher as to what the important topics are within this area of study as well as those who are entirely new to the discipline and need a resource as to what the key questions are. Think of *100 Questions . . .* as a reminder, a resource and refresher of sorts. It's for graduate students preparing for comprehensive exams, researchers who need a reference, undergraduates in affiliated programs who will not be taking a primary course in research methods, and anyone curious about how these tools can be used most effectively.

Some tips about using the book . . .

1. The questions are divided into nine parts as follows:
 - Part 1: Understanding the Research Process and Getting Started
 - Part 2: Reviewing and Writing About Your Research Question
 - Part 3: Introductory Ideas About Ethics
 - Part 4: Research Methods: Knowing the Language, Knowing the Ideas
 - Part 5: Sampling Ideas and Issues
 - Part 6: Describing Data Using Descriptive Techniques
 - Part 7: All About Testing and Measuring
 - Part 8: Understanding Different Research Methods
 - Part 9: All About Inference and Significance

2. Each of these questions and answers can stand alone and provide a direct question and relatively short answer. Probably a book-length response could be written for each question, but the task at hand here is quick—enough information to allow the reader to gain some knowledge before he or she moves on to the next question or topic.
3. Not all of these questions and answers are independent of one another; most supplement each other. This is to help ensure that important material is reinforced and to help make sure that primary and secondary topics get consideration as well.
4. Each question ends with reference to three other questions related to the current question. These are the three that I think can best supplement the primary question being asked and answered. There are, of course, many others.