

Research Methodologies Guide

A collection of resources describing research methods in the social sciences and the humanities

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Action Research

Action research is defined by O'Leary (2007) as

"Research strategies that tackle real-world problems in participatory, collaborative, and cyclical ways in order to produce both knowledge and action."

It refers to a type of research methodology which works toward a kind of change (whether social or professional). Because its goals are oriented toward change rather than knowledge-gathering alone, active research studies are often based in everyday issues, and concern themselves with the creation of practical solutions to these problems.

Elements of action research studies include:

- Identify a problem
- Research the problem and its probable causes
- Develop a response to the problem
- Implement the proposed solution
- Observe the implementation of the solution
- Reflect on the results (and start over, if necessary)

For more in-depth information, browse the resources below:



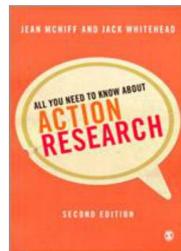
Where to Start

Below, a few tools and online guides that can help you start your action research project are listed.

These include free online resources and resources available only through ISU Library.

- Action Research Handout

From the University of Pittsburgh, this handout defines action research, how it can be carried out, and common features of this type of research.



All You Need to Know about

Action Research by Jack Whitehead & Jean McNiff

In the second edition of All You Need to Know about Action Research, expert

practitioners Jean McNiff and Jack Whitehead guide you through everything you need to know to plan and carry out a successful action research project.

Action Research by Julian Edge (Editor)

This book contains a series of articles by different researchers on their experiences with action research in different settings.



Online Resources

- YouTube - What is Action Research?
This video reviews action research as it is used in education.
- Center for Collaborative Action Research-
Action Research with technology,
Pepperdine University
A wiki for collaboration in action research.
- Overview of the Methodological Approach
of Action Research
A clear explanation from Rory O'Brien,
University of Toronto.
- Action Research - Informal Education
From the encyclopedia of information
education, this is another helpful article on
action research, featuring different ways of
describing it.
- Action Research Resources
A collection of links on action research,
including a definition of action research.
- Action research - Wikipedia, the free
encyclopedia
Wikipedia can be a useful place to start your
research- check the citations at the bottom
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