

Contents

Key to Abbreviations	<i>page</i>	x
Author's Preface		xi
1 Introduction		1
Rationale for a Focus on Research Design		1
Theoretical Research and Policy Research		3
A Classification of Study Types		8
The Presentation of Study Types		11
Choices, Strategies and Practicalities		12
PART ONE: TYPES OF RESEARCH STUDY		15
2 Research Reviews, Meta-analysis and Secondary Analysis		17
Research Reviews		17
Meta-analysis		19
Secondary Analysis		20
Practical Considerations		24
3 Qualitative Research		26
Some Illustrative Examples		29
Overlaps, Linkages and Combinations		31
Practical Considerations		33
4 Research Analysis of Administrative Records		36
Varieties of Records-based Studies		37
The Nature and Quality of Data from Administrative Records		40
Record Linkage		43
Documentary Analysis		44
Overlaps, Linkages and Combinations		45
Practical Considerations		45
5 Ad Hoc Sample Surveys		47
Surveys of Individuals		50
Survey Research on Roles and Relationships		54
Survey Research on Organisations		55
Overlaps, Linkages and Combinations		57
Practical Considerations		58

6	Case Studies	61
	Individual Case Histories	65
	Community Studies	66
	Case Studies of Social Groups	68
	Case Studies of Organisations and Institutions	69
	Case Studies of Events, Roles and Relationships	72
	Overlaps, Linkages and Combinations	73
	Practical Considerations	73
7	Regular Surveys	76
	Gross and Net Change	77
	Types of Regular Survey	79
	Overlaps, Linkages and Combinations	83
	Practical Considerations	85
8	Longitudinal Studies	87
	Multi-purpose Studies: Panels and Cohorts	91
	Studies Focused on Specific Groups or Issues	96
	Inter-generational Studies	96
	Retrospective Studies	97
	Overlaps, Linkages and Combinations	98
	Practical Considerations	98
9	Experimental Social Research	101
	Experiments in Real-life Settings	105
	Natural Experiments	109
	Experiments in Artificial Settings	111
	Simulation and Modelling	112
	Overlaps, Linkages and Combinations	114
	Practical Considerations	115
PART TWO: PUTTING TOGETHER A RESEARCH DESIGN		117
10	Choices and Combinations	119
	Trading down to a Cheaper Design	120
	Trading up to a More Complex Design	123
	Simultaneous Replication	124
	Units of Analysis: Time, Space and Social Units	127

11	Research Programmes	135
	Strategies for Research Programmes	137
	Focused Sampling	141
	Multiple Triangulation	144
	Conflicting Interests	145
	Multi-disciplinary Research	147
	Programme Organisation and Management	150
	Presentation of Reports	153
12	The Organisation and Funding of Research	156
	Practical Aspects of Research Design	157
	Funding	159
	Organisation and Management of Research Work	165
	Issues in Research Management	167
13	Conclusions	171
	Bibliography and Author Index	176
	Subject Index	208