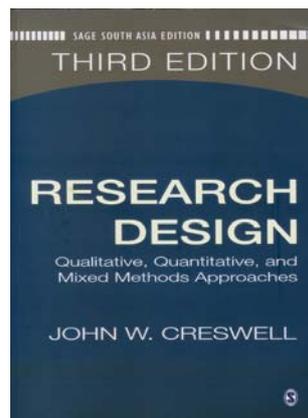


country needs to ensure that the record is examined from a number of angles that this book discusses. Second, every chapter of the book concludes with recommendations on issues that need to be addressed to make progress in understanding the sea-level rise. These recommendations would help researchers formulate new problems with focus on the Indian coastline and islands. The researchers would also benefit from the exhaustive list of references at the end of each chapter. Third, the country is in the process of putting together a policy to manage its coastline. The book provides an overview of the issues that the policymaker should be aware of with respect of sea level, including its rise and its tendency for attaining extreme values. The policymaker will find the first three chapters and the last chapter useful to get an overview of the concerns that have been raised so far around the world. Fourth, the book brings home convincingly the fact that the expertise in earth sciences required to face modern-day problems requires going across borders of classical disciplines of earth sciences – oceanography, meteorology, geology, geophysics, glaciology, hydrology, etc. If one were to teach a course to stress the need to look at the earth as an integrated system, an eminent choice of a topic for the course would be sea-level change due to climate change. This book would be a wonderful textbook for the course.

In summary, I strongly recommend this book because of its thorough and exhaustive discussion on all aspects of sea-level rise due to climate change. Virtually every researcher and student of earth system can find something in it that links his/her field of interest to the broad canvas of research on sea-level rise. There is useful material in it too for the policymaker concerned with management of coastlines and islands to confront the sea-level rise.

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Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods Approaches.

John W. Creswell. SAGE Publications India Pvt Ltd, B1/I-1 Mohan Cooperative Industrial Area, Mathura Road, New Delhi 110 044. 2011. 3rd edn. xxix + 260 pp. Price: Rs 395.

Human and social science researchers typically ask two fundamental types of question: (i) *What* is going on? (ii) *Why* is it going on? For a new researcher it is rare to find a book on research design which comprehensively covers both these questions. The book under review is one such rare edition. It takes a strategic perspective and details, often step-by-step, various approaches to investigating research questions. Through limited in providing designs for complex research questions, it is an excellent reference for anyone planning to start serious, well-formed social science research.

The book is divided into two parts and ten chapters. The first part, comprising five chapters, discusses the preliminary considerations before designing a research. It examines the various philosophical worldviews, the use of literature in research and in the design techniques, integration of theory in research, and developing the theoretical perspective of research. Each of these sub-themes is also discussed from the research design perspective. The first part also includes a chapter on writing strategies and ethical considerations in a research process. The second part, comprising five chapters, discusses the main theme of the book. It puts forth the ways to frame research questions under the qualitative, quantitative and mixed method approaches, and illustrates the various research designs possible to answer some basic research questions.

Chapter 1 commences with putting forth the four main worldviews, namely the post positivist, the social constructivist, the advocacy/participatory, and the pragmatic and listing the various types of research methodologies. It then discusses research design as different worldviews and research strategies. Chapter 2 highlights the use of literature in various types of research designs, including the design techniques. This chapter also comprises several examples illustrating the link between literature review and research methodology. Chapter 3 begins by reviewing the definition of theory and focuses on the placement of theory in a quantitative study. Chapter 4 assesses how proposal structures differ according to the nature of design, and discusses writing consistency considerations, principles of writing a good prose and ethical issues involved in a research process. Chapter 5 serves as an introduction to the second part of the book. It illustrates the different approaches to writing a proposal, namely introduction, research problem, integrating literature and identifying the target audience for a research study.

Chapter 6 is the beginning of the second part of the book. It discusses research statements and research purpose from the nature of enquiry perspective, namely qualitative, quantitative or mix method. Chapter 7 expands the discussion by including research questions and hypotheses, and gives a model for presenting descriptive and inferential quantitative questions and hypotheses. Chapters 8–10 examine the main focus on the book, namely the research designs. Chapter 8 illustrates the quantitative procedures. It gives a checklist to develop topics for a survey research, steps for survey procedures, checklist for experimental research, identifies types of experimental procedures for best fit, and discusses the potential internal and external validity threats to a study. Chapter 9 illustrates the qualitative procedures, the basic characteristics of qualitative research, the difference between types of data collection, distinguishes between forms of data analysis and analysis within strategies of enquiry, and strategies to establish validity of qualitative studies. Chapter 10 illustrates the mixed method procedures. It discusses the timing, weight and theory related to mixed method design, puts forth six models of enquiry, and deliberates on their basic differences.

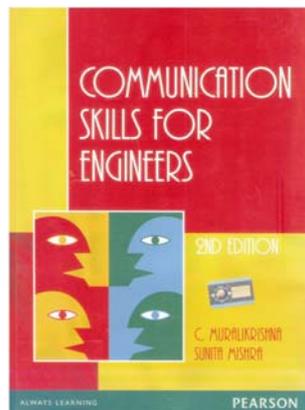
BOOK REVIEWS

In its chapter-wise structure and explanations, this book will be useful for someone working on a Master's or a doctoral dissertation. It provides a good overview of the research process, examining research design side by side within the process. In trying to keep things simple, however, it avoids the complexity inherent in the choice of a research proposal, like correct identification of the magnitude of the problem, proper and prior exposure to the data and their sources, and the strong influence of the decision frames of a decision-maker on the entire research. They not only influence the research design, but also impact on the research validity and reliability, and hence, deserve a discussion. This limits the book.

There is substantial bibliography and the index is comprehensive. Moreover, the author provides an additional readings list after each chapter with a short note on each of the additional references. This book can be a good guide for human and social science research students, towards a well-formed thesis.

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Communication Skills for Engineers. Sunita Mishra and C. Muralikrishna. Dorling Kindersley (India) Pvt Ltd, 7th Floor, Knowledge Boulevard, A-8 (A), Sector 62, Noida 201 309. 2011. 2nd edn. viii + 276 pp. Price not mentioned.

Many of us face difficulties in communicating with others. The book under review addresses this problem in the case of engineers and other professionals. The authors feel that 'it is primarily an attitude, a willingness to communicate, share one's ideas and information that makes one a good communicator'. They discuss the skill sets and attitudinal factors required for effective communication in different situations.

The present book is the second edition and includes new topics such as writing résumés and e-mails, conducting interviews and basic English grammar. The introductory chapter gives an overview of the part played by information technology in communication and various aspects in communication such as creativity, empathetic listening and body language. The core of the book is divided

into two parts, one on 'grammar matters' (one chapter) and the other on 'communication matters' (11 chapters). All the twelve chapters start with section objectives, and almost all of them end with a summary and review questions. A new concept is usually followed by numerous examples for clarification, and activities to help readers apply the preceding theory. Humorous excerpts and quotes are included to explain inaccurate or ineffective communication and facts. The appendices deal with vocabulary expansion, common errors in English communication, practice exercises and model question papers.

Some of the concepts that the authors discuss are: (a) developing a good reading speed; (b) importance of voice, pitch, modulation and pauses, especially during a telephonic conversation; (c) do's and don'ts during group discussions, meetings and interviews; (d) use of visual aids in presentations; (e) mind mapping – a graphic technique useful in representing ideas and enhancing creativity; (f) role of imagination, pictures, colours and images as learning tools, and (g) use of decision trees and flow charts in the technical description of processes. They also give minute guidelines such as instructing the résumé writer to include his 'personal' and not 'work' email address.

The text deserves careful editing to remove grammatical errors and better proof-reading to check for typographical mistakes. Answers could be provided, where necessary, for activities and practice exercises.

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