

Contents

Acknowledgements	vii
Preface to the second edition	ix
Glossary	1
Introduction	13
1. Understanding the nature of educational research	19
What is research?	20
What are research's historical roots?	21
Why conduct research?	22
What is educational research?	23
What are the main approaches to research?	24
How do you make sense of the research literature available?	26
How does research relate to your everyday work?	28
2. Selecting a research design	33
What does it mean to be a researcher?	34
What are the decisions that all researchers make?	38
How do you choose a topic?	39
How do you develop a research question?	42
What kind of research design will best suit your purposes?	47
How do you choose who or what to study?	47
3. Considering the place of theory	57
What is theory?	58
What are the different types of theory?	58
Why do theories that explain the same phenomena vary so widely?	61
How does theory relate to research?	63
How do you begin to define your theoretical stance?	64
How do you prepare for working with people with different theoretical frameworks or in settings with different world views?	66
4. Examining the ethical issues	75
Why are ethics important in research?	76
What are some key ethical concepts?	77
How do you prepare for ethical approval?	80
How do you approach your participants?	81
What do you need to consider when researching in your own workplace?	84
How do you act ethically in cultural settings other your own?	85
5. Reviewing the literature	89
Why conduct a literature review?	90
Where do you start?	90
How do you keep track of everything?	93
How do you write up a literature review?	95
Why are referencing conventions important?	96

6. Choosing methods, strategies, and tools	103
What is the link between theory, methodology, and method?	104
How does your research question link to your research design?	104
What are common methodologies used in educational research?	106
How do you ensure your research can be trusted?	109
What are common methods, strategies, and tools used in educational research?	110
What is mixed methodology?	125
7. Writing research proposals	131
What is the purpose of a research proposal?	132
What is a common format for a research proposal?	133
At what stage do you write a research proposal?	134
How much do those who approve your proposal influence its content and format?	135
How do you set a budget?	136
8. Conducting the research	141
What factors make for successful implementation?	142
What equipment do you need and how do you manage it?	142
What are field notes and why do you take them?	144
How do you manage all that data?	145
What is a research journal and why is it helpful?	146
What do you need to be aware of when conducting research with children?	147
9. Analysing the data	151
How do you analyse quantitative data?	152
How do you display quantitative data?	157
How do you analyse qualitative data?	163
How do you display qualitative data?	166
How do you interpret your findings?	169
What is the place of tentative theorising?	171
10. Writing up, reaching out, and moving on	175
How do you write a research report?	176
How do you tailor your report to reach different audiences?	180
How do you prepare a conference presentation?	180
How do you get published?	184
How do you stay motivated?	187
Is research worth it?	189
Where to next?	192
11. Current trends and future possibilities	197
How have changes in technology influenced research?	198
What are some recent developments in quantitative research?	204
What are some recent developments in qualitative research?	208
Is mixed methods research a 'third paradigm'?	211
How similar or different are research and evaluation?	215
Are there new developments in cultural and ethical frameworks?	216
How have textual, visual and arts-based approaches developed?	220
What can reflective approaches contribute to research?	225
What can be gained from collaborative research?	228
Where might research go in the future?	230
Index	241