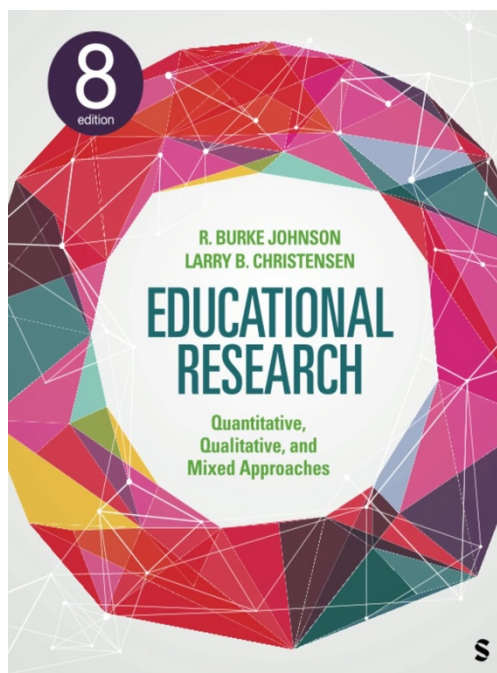


Book Review: *Educational Research: Quantitative, Qualitative, and Mixed Approaches*

Author: Robert Burke Johnson and Larry B. Christensen

*Sukolrat Ingchatcharon**

**Asst. Prof. Dr., Office of Registration, Records and Evaluation, Sukhothai Thammathirat Open University*



Overview:

Educational Research: Quantitative, Qualitative, and Mixed Approaches is a staple resource for anyone seeking to understand the principles and practices of research in education. Written by Robert Burke Johnson and Larry B. Christensen, this book seamlessly bridges theory and practice. Whether you are a novice researcher, graduate student, or experienced educator, the authors provide a comprehensive and clear framework for conducting research. This Eighth Edition maintains the book's reputation for clarity and accessibility while incorporating updates relevant to the evolving landscape of educational research.

The book focuses on three major research approaches:

1. **Quantitative Methods** – A systematic, data-driven approach using numbers and statistics.
2. **Qualitative Methods** – A human-centered approach that explores behaviors, experiences, and narratives.
3. **Mixed Methods** – A powerful integration of quantitative and qualitative techniques for a comprehensive analysis.

The book explains research concepts in a way that is easy to understand, even for beginners. The authors provide practical tools, real-world examples, and step-by-step guidance, including:

- How to formulate a research problem,
- Conduct a literature review,
- Collect and analyze data, and
- Interpret and present findings.

The book simplifies complex topics like **sampling techniques**, **validity**, and **statistical analysis**, making them less intimidating.

Johnson and Christensen strike the perfect balance between theory and application. Readers don't just learn *about* research—they also learn *how* to conduct it. The examples and case studies from real educational settings connect theory to practice, helping students see how research methods apply to real-world issues.

The book's emphasis on **mixed methods** research sets it apart from other texts. By combining the strengths of quantitative and qualitative approaches, readers are encouraged to think more holistically and creatively when addressing research questions.

Ethics are a significant focus, particularly given the sensitive nature of research in educational settings. The authors discuss issues like informed consent, privacy, and working with vulnerable populations, ensuring readers understand their responsibilities as researchers.

Key Highlights by Chapter

1. **Foundations of Educational Research:** Defines research and introduces its role in educational improvement.
2. **Quantitative Research:** Covers experimental and non-experimental designs, surveys, and statistical tools.
3. **Qualitative Research:** Explores case studies, interviews, ethnography, and thematic analysis.

4. **Mixed Methods:** Introduces designs like **explanatory**, **exploratory**, and **convergent**, highlighting the benefits of combining methods.
5. **Literature Reviews and Research Design:** Guides readers on how to identify credible sources and design effective studies.
6. **Data Collection and Analysis:** Offers practical advice on gathering and interpreting data, from numbers to narratives.
7. **Ethics and Reporting:** Discusses the importance of ethics in research and how to communicate findings effectively.

Each chapter includes examples, exercises, and key takeaways that solidify learning.

Strengths of the Book

Clear and Structured Layout: Concepts are introduced progressively, making the book easy to follow.

Real-World Examples: Frequent case studies and examples help readers understand the practical applications of research.

Inclusive Approach: By combining quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods, the book accommodates diverse research needs.

Tools for Students: The book includes templates, checklists, and exercises that make it ideal for hands-on learning.

Educational Research: Quantitative, Qualitative, and Mixed Approaches (Eighth Edition) is a well-rounded, modern guide to educational research. Johnson and Christensen's ability to simplify complex concepts and provide practical tools makes this book an essential resource for students and professionals alike. If you are graduate and undergraduate students. It's an excellent introduction to educational research, especially for those working on theses or dissertations. If you are educators and administrators, you can learn how to evaluate research findings and apply them to decision-making. If you are researchers, this book is a valuable reference for anyone conducting studies in education or social sciences. If you're looking to build a strong foundation in research methodology while staying grounded in real-world applications, this book is worth reading. It empowers readers to not only understand research but also to conduct it confidently and ethically.