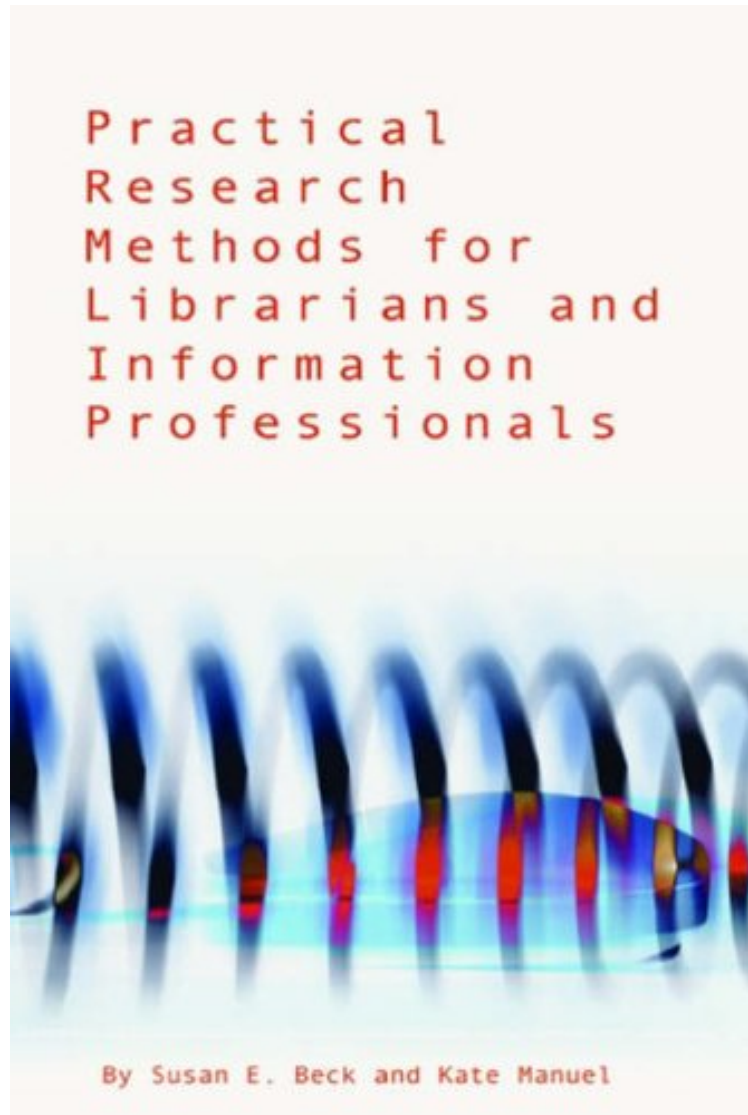


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# Practical Research Methods for Librarians and Information Professionals

*Susan E. Beck*

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Library and information professionals are increasingly called upon to justify budgets, services, programs sometimes even our very existence. This very practical and clear guide offers step-by-step guidance for using traditional research methods to help improve, validate, and ultimately advance the day-to-day work and purpose of libraries. Beck and Manuel's straight-forward and understandable approach shows how different methodologies focus groups, usability tests, action research, transaction analysis, bibliometrics can be used to evaluate and enhance library functions, including: Reference interviews; Collection and resource evaluation; Programming; Workflow, and Web site design and usage and more. Each chapter outlines a particular methodology s process, including: selecting the research topic, formulating questions, defining the population, gathering data, interpreting evidence, and telling the story. Specific advice for navigating legal and ethical concerns, avoiding incorrect inferences, overcoming communication obstacles, and working with institutional review boards is also included. This is an easy-to-use guide for practitioners and an essential introduction for library school students.

A guide to assist librarians to become more than what they are....Highly recommended for any library science collection and for the librarians themselves. --The Midwest Book , May 2008The perfect book to help librarians find both the time and the expertise needed to conduct thorough and rigorous research....Useful for both novices and experts alike. The entire book could be useful as a textbook....For the expert this book offers the opportunity to explore other methodologies. Beck and Manuel have crafted a superb resource for beginning and veteran researchers alike. -- The Journal of Academic Librarianship, May 2008I would recommend it without hesitation for several audiences. The text should be valuable for library students (regardless of their field), and deserves a look from busy librarians and information professionals as well. --ARBA Vol 39, 2008"Susan E. Beck and Kate Manuel have written a detailed work on practical research methods that should appeal to librarians and information professionals who struggle to fit serious research into their busy professional duties." --Portal: Libraries and the AcademyI would recommend it without hesitation for several audiences. The text should be valuable for library students (regardless of their field), and deserves a look from busy librarians and information professionals as well. --ARBA Vol 39, 2008