

Chapter 2

Planning a Quantitative Research Project

Chapter 2 Outline

- Overview of the Steps in the Research Plan
- Research Problems
 - Three Sample Research Problems
 - Sources of Research Problems
 - Identifying Research Problems in the Literature
 - Characteristics of a Good Research Problem
 - Broad Versus Narrow
 - Widespread Versus Limited Interest
 - Well-Researched Versus Unknown Territory
 - Frameworks for Stating Research Problems
 - Format
 - Examples of how to Phrase a Research Problem.
- Review of the Literature
 - Definition of the Literature Review
 - Sources to Use in Literature Reviews

Teaching Objectives for Chapter 2

The student will be able to identify the ordered steps in the research plan.

The student will be able to define the concept of a research problem.

The student will be able to identify and rate the research problems in extant literature.

The student will be able to discuss the major sources of research problems.

The student will be able to obtain examples of research problems from the literature.

The student will be able to rate research problems by the following characteristics: filling a gap in the literature, testing a theory, stated clearly and unambiguously, being testable, being ethical, feasible, and being of interest to the researcher.

The student will be able to discuss how research problems can be broad or narrow, widespread or limited in interest, and well researched or unknown territory.

The student will be able to define *literature review*.

The student will be able to identify sources to use in a literature review.

Figure 2.1

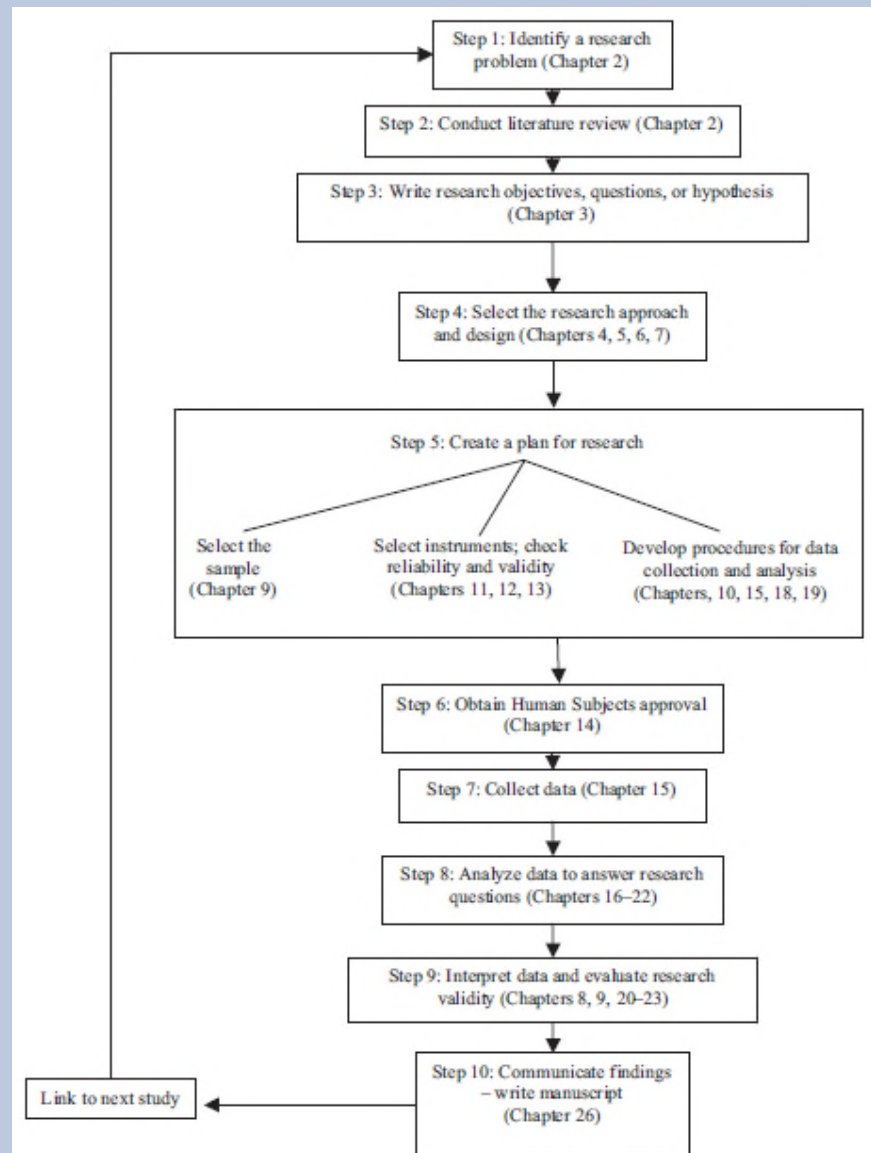


FIGURE 2.1

Steps in the Research Process for a Quantitative Study and the Chapters that Present Information on the Topic.

Key Concepts

Characteristics of a good research problem

Literature review

Research problems

Sources of research problems

Framework for stating research problems

Process for conducting a literature review

Ethics in writing literature reviews

Sources for literature reviews

Steps in planning research

Theory

Key Distinctions

Broad versus narrow research problems

Existing literature versus personal
experience versus clinical observation

Literature review versus annotated
bibliography

Primary source versus secondary source

Well-researched versus unknown territory

Widespread versus limited interest