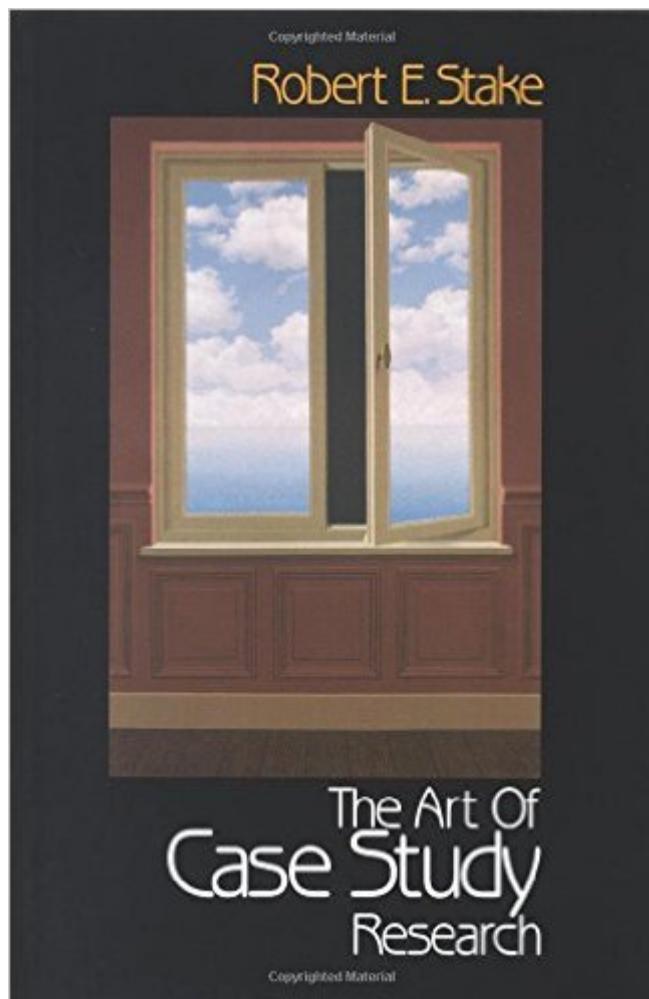


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The Art Of Case Study Research



Synopsis

This book presents a disciplined, qualitative exploration of case study methods by drawing from naturalistic, holistic, ethnographic, phenomenological and biographic research methods. Robert E. Stake uses and annotates an actual case study to answer such questions as: How is the case selected? How do you select the case which will maximize what can be learned? How can what is learned from one case be applied to another? How can what is learned from a case be interpreted? In addition, the book covers: the differences between quantitative and qualitative approaches; data-gathering including document review; coding, sorting and pattern analysis; the roles of the researcher; triangulation; and reporting.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

If you're looking for a practical book on completing a case study this is it! The chapters are organized in such a way that the process is laid out and easily understood. The book is reader friendly and doesn't spend much time in the technical aspect of case study. It allows the reader to understand and then sit down and get to work. I've read several books dealing with case study and this one I found most useful. It is written during the authors time of teaching a course. The benefit of the book for the reader is that you most likely don't have time to take a course specifically on case study and can read the book in place of taking the course! I am much further ahead in the completion of my own dissertation case study since I've read the book. I recommend it to anyone moving in this direction and believe that you will find it understandable, useful, and key in your successful

completion of a case study. Wow - what a find!

This text is a decent overview of one approach to case study research. Be warned that it is a very "naturalistic" approach to case study research, as the inclusion of "art" in the title should indicate. The text offers some good guidance on how to conduct case study research, but it is a little thin on methodology, and a little heavy on intuition and justification for the use of intuition in conducting research. Robert Stake's article in the *The SAGE Handbook of Qualitative Research* is far more informative about how to conduct case study research from a qualitative perspective, though it is obviously much shorter. Stake's advancement of a typology of case study research ("iterative", "instrumental", and "collective") is useful, as is his insistence on the value of case study research from a qualitative perspective. For the actual conduct of case study research, the researcher should be familiar with both Robert Stake and Robert Yin, best articulated in *Case Study Research: Design and Methods* (Applied Social Research Methods). Yin is a more post-positivist case study researcher, and as such offers a more step by step approach to conducting case study research. The *The Art Of Case Study Research* is an adequate introduction to Robert Stake's approach to case study research, and is a well-respected and seminal text in the field. Case study researchers should at least be familiar with Robert Stake and this text.

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This book is a classic, and rightfully so. Stake lays out case study research in a clear and direct manner, with good examples and an orientation drawn from being perhaps the leading practitioner and theoretician in the field for decades. Beyond that, his experience leads him to be very realistic, which is helpful for those educational researchers who seem always to want to be idealistic and aim towards perfection. Stake clearly taught many to successfully conduct case study research in education, and this book presents his wisdom and his ideas in a highly readable and enlightening manner.

Two of the biggest problems encountered by Qualitative Researchers are, gaining access to interviewees and, conducting the interviews themselves especially, in Case Study designs. This book provides additional insights that will assist with both of these problems. It also discusses the major tasks of analyzing and, interpreting the data gathered from interviews conducted. Additionally, there are recommendations about increasing the rigor of a study by Triangulation. Data triangulation is a major tool in qualitative research so, in our opinion, the more understanding of the practice a researcher has, the better.

Case study research can be complex. This book really lays out the groundwork for how to look at the case study and even how to attempt your own case study research. Quite easy to read and provides a great foundation for case study research!

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