

Foreword

The Psychology Research Handbook: A Guide for Graduate Students and Research Assistants is destined to become a standard reference work for students seeking to master psychology research methods and procedures. The editors, Dr. Frederick Leong and Dr. James Austin, are to be congratulated for providing students with a comprehensive guide for conducting many types of psychology research on human participants.

It's all here in clear and lucid prose: from identifying a research topic to applying for research grants, the reader is treated to an intellectually stimulating and fun-filled journey into the world of psychology research. The volume contains 29 chapters, some of which are coauthored by advanced graduate students. All of the authors have considerable expertise and experience in their respective topics. The chapters all contain detailed "scripts" on the various research procedures. This touch of the real world adds to the clarity and practicality of many chapters.

An added advantage of this book is that it has been organized in a sequential model representing the research process from start to finish. This organization makes the *Handbook* an ideal text for psychology undergraduate students taking independent research courses with faculty. However, the design of the *Handbook* is also such that the reader can obtain useful information from any single chapter rather than reading the book in a linear fashion, because each chapter can be used as an independent lesson. Furthermore, the chapters are organized into six modules—those who need assistance with research design and instrument selection can focus on Part II of the *Handbook*, and others who need to learn about research writing will find much useful advice and guidance in Part V.

Unlike other research handbooks that are filled with arcane material that frighten the budding researcher, this volume will spark a lifelong love affair with the psychology research process. Of special value are the chapters on topics typically missing from other texts, including cross-cultural research, dealing with journal editors and reviewers, conducting meta-analyses, and using archival data sets.

In my opinion, this is the book of choice for introducing the psychology research process to students and research assistants.

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