

YORKWAC Infobase

Data-driven Research Papers: Research Design and Methods

This section explains how you will do the research you propose. What data will you use? What does it contain? What will you be looking for – how will you identify or operationalize the factors you need to study? What method will you use to analyze the data, and what models or themes will you analyze? The methods section is usually 2-5 pages long.

This section can be divided into several sub-sections with the following subheadings:

1. *Subjects or /Participants*

State the number of participants (human) or subjects (i.e. animals), who they were (i.e. age, gender, occupation) and how they were selected.

2. *Materials or Measures*

Include each and every material used in you used during your data collection: questionnaires, interview schedules etc **AND** describe their function (why this particular measure?)

3. *Design*

Identify and explain your variables - what exactly are you measuring? how you will study the effects of x on y?

4. *Procedure*

Describe in detailed sequence how the study was done.

Remember: Try to provide enough detail that another researcher could replicate your study, but focus on brevity. Avoid unnecessary detail that is not relevant to the outcome of your research.

The **YORKWAC Infobase** includes many other Infosheets that can help you with your writing assignment.

If you want more information on organizing your data-driven research paper, you might want to try:

Infosheet #7, Organizing a Data-driven Research Paper

Infosheet #8, Data-driven Research Papers: The Introduction

Infosheet #10, Data-driven Research Papers: Reporting Your Findings

Infosheet #11, Data-driven Research Papers: Writing Your Discussion