

HOW DOES RESEARCH HELP ME HELP THEM?

Research can be considered as knowledge-based assessment. Effective library management involves ongoing monitoring and improvement through thoughtful problem-identification and solutions. Systematically examining an issue, reviewing the relevant literature, gathering and analyzing significant factors, testing and evaluating results all help solve crises. By documenting this process, **librarians have more control of their efforts**, can replicate them more easily, and have the evidence needed to convince decisionmakers to allocate the resources necessary to **solve the problem**.



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Using research to promote literacy and reading in libraries: Guidelines for librarians

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[http://www.ifla.org/en/
publications/ifla-professional-reports-125](http://www.ifla.org/en/publications/ifla-professional-reports-125)



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Center for the Book.

<http://www.read.gov/cfb/>

What Works Clearinghouse.

<http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/>

National Center for Literacy.

<http://www.nifl.gov/>

Research about Effective Literacy Instruction.

<http://www.literacy.uconn.edu/resart.htm>

*MORE INFORMATION AVAILABLE
IN THE REPORT*



USING RESEARCH TO PROMOTE LITERACY & READING

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION
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LITERACY & READING
SECTION

[http://www.ifla.org/en/
literacy-and-reading](http://www.ifla.org/en/literacy-and-reading)

Librarians want to do the best job they can to promote reading and literacy. And they want to **work smarter, not harder**. Librarians need to incorporate assessment throughout their work, and structure efforts to make significant valid and reliable claims about the library program's offerings and their importance. By systematically examining their practice with the intent of improving the library program, librarians become reflective practitioners of research.

HOW DO I GET INVOLVED IN RESEARCH?

Consume Research

Good reviews of the literature helps librarians determine the contributing factors that impact literacy and reading in library settings. **Understanding the methodologies** helps librarians match research approaches and problems.

Even reading the data discussion and conclusions helps librarians know how to manage data to **make meaningful decisions**.



*"Research is creating new knowledge."
Neil Armstrong*

WHAT IS RESEARCH?

Research design uses the following steps:

- **Clarify** the purposes of the investigation.
- **Operationalize** the purpose and scope.
- **Formulate** research questions.
- **Determine** appropriate methodologies.
- **Determine** instruments to collect data.
- **Determine** the population and sample.
- **Collect** valid and reliable data.
- **Determine** how to analyze the data.
- **Interpret** and report the findings.

Participate in Research

Participating in studies as a subject or instrument administrator (e.g., handing out patron satisfaction surveys) enables librarians to experience research as process. By getting **behind the scene**, librarians can better appreciate the reason for research, and critique data collection tools. Librarians tend to serve this role when the institution wants to **evaluate the quality** of library literacy and reading services.

Do Action Research

The most common research methodology for librarians is action research: systematically **examining the work environment**, formulating a problem, identifying possible contributing factors underlying the program, reading what other people have to say about the problem, gathering data about it, analyzing the facts, drawing conclusions about ways to solve the problem, and then acting on the recommendations. Library stakeholders who participate in action research feel that their experiences and opinions matter as there perspectives are taken into account to **improve the library as a whole**.