

Research Matters

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BOOK REVIEW

Du Plooy-Cilliers, F., Davis, C. & Bezuidenhout, R. 2014.
Research Matters. Cape Town: Juta.

Research Matters is an introductory research title aimed at undergraduate students and fills a gap in the market where no other publication addresses entry-level research or research basics on this level.

What sets this textbook apart from other research textbooks is that the writers aim to equip the inexperienced researcher with the necessary skills and confidence to tackle their first research project. This is important as novice researchers are often intimidated by the philosophical nature of the subject which this text presents in a non-threatening manner. It resists the temptation to provide too much information and simply presents enough detail required to get started and produce that first dissertation or publication. It seems perfect for 3rd year undergraduate research and Honours-level students. The textbook provides an adequate amount of knowledge and

referencing to serve its purpose – it was not intended to provide ground-breaking new knowledge. Qualitative and quantitative methods are covered in detail as are the practicalities of referencing, proposal and report writing, and determining the limitations of research. Illustrations, charts and graphs are well chosen to clarify the text material and substantially support the theoretical principles, while the authors still take care of explaining each term and concept clearly.

Being personally involved with research capacity development, I welcome this publication and will gladly prescribe it. I foresee that some refinement may be possible on a further edition in two or three years – feedback from users may identify specific areas once the book is deployed as a prescribed work.