

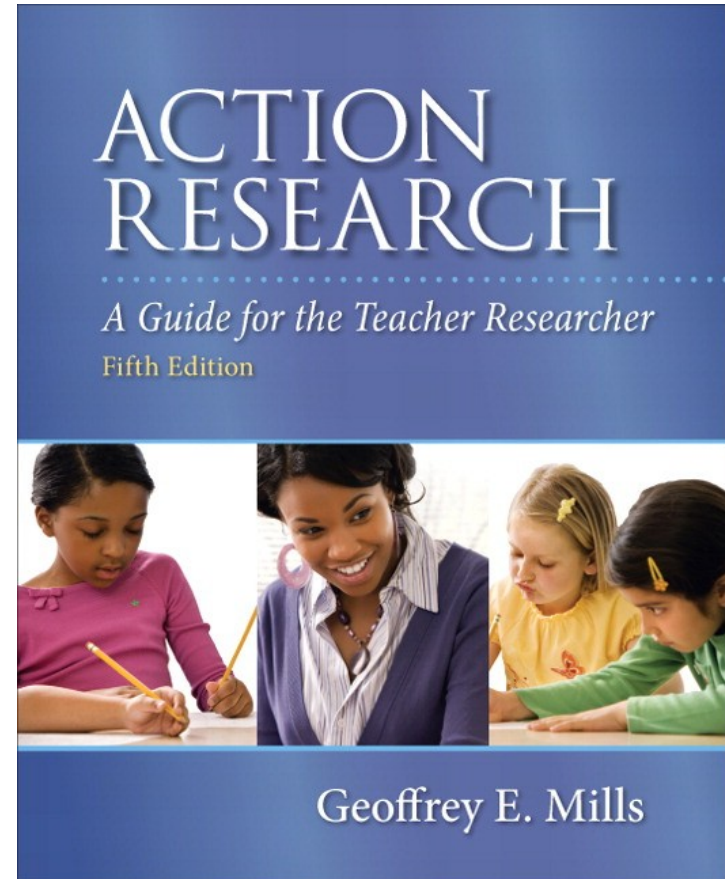
# Action Research

A Guide for the Teacher Researcher

Fifth Edition

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# Chapter 5

## Data Collection Considerations

# Validity

- Degree to which data collection methods measure what they are supposed to measure

# Quantitative Research

- Internal validity
  - degree to which observed differences on the dependent variable are a direct result of manipulation of the independent variable, not some other variable (experimental research)
- External validity
  - degree to which study results are applicable to groups and environments outside the research setting

# Qualitative Research

- Measure of trustworthiness
- Measure of understanding

# Guba's Validity Criteria

- Credibility
  - degree to which findings are believable
- Transferability
  - degree to which results apply in other contexts
- Dependability
  - stability/quality of data
- Confirmability
  - neutrality/objectivity of data

# Wolcott's Strategies

- Talk little, listen a lot
- Record accurately
- Begin writing early
- Let readers “see” for themselves
- Report fully
- Be candid
- Seek feedback
- Write accurately

# Reliability

- Degree to which a test consistently measures whatever it measures
  - expressed numerically, usually as coefficient
  - high coefficient (near 1.00) indicates high reliability
  - no test is perfectly reliable



# Reliability in Qualitative Action Research

- Degree to which data would be consistently collected
  - same techniques utilized repeatedly
  - same techniques used by different researchers

# Reliability and Validity

- A valid test is always reliable
  - it will measure what it purports to measure consistently over time
- A reliable test is not always valid
  - it will consistently measure the wrong thing!

# Generalizability

- Degree to which behavior of one group can be used to explain the behavior of a wider group
- Generalizability is *not* the goal of action research. Instead, it is to:
  - understand what is happening in your school or classroom
  - determine how to improve things in that context

# Confronting Personal Bias

- Conduct research in a systematic, disciplined manner
- Develop a list of propositions about the findings