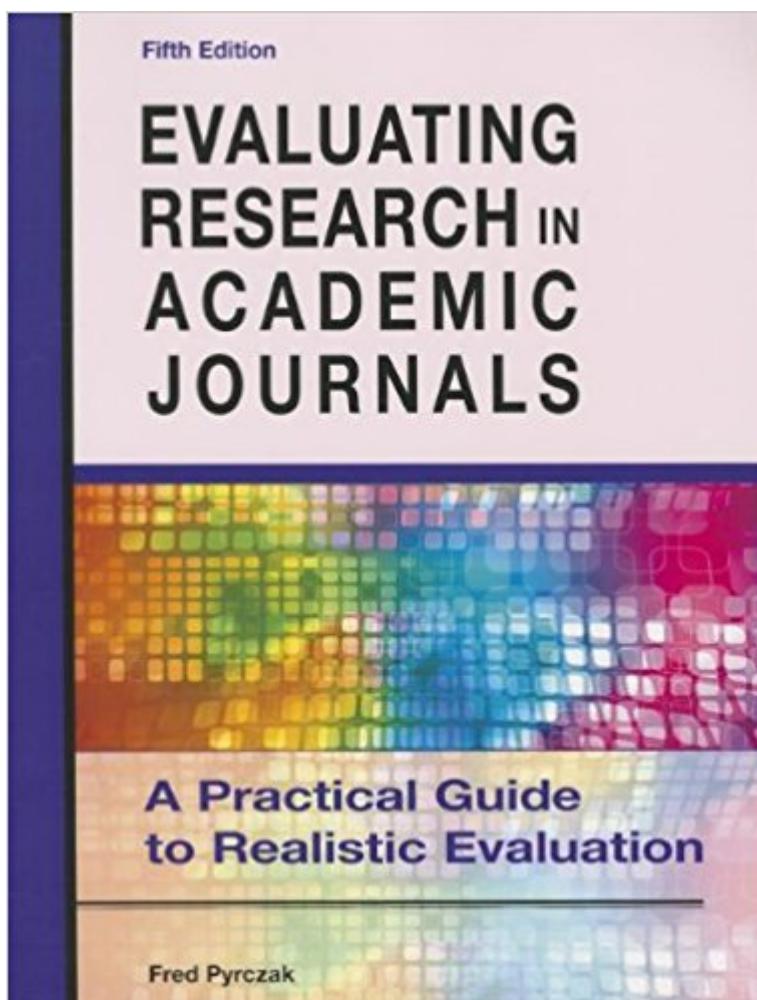


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# Evaluating Research In Academic Journals: A Practical Guide To Realistic Evaluation



## **Synopsis**

â € A supplementary guide for students who are learning how to evaluate reports of empirical research published in academic journals. â € Your students will learn the practical aspects of evaluating research, not just how to apply a laundry list of technical terms from their textbooks. â € Each chapter is organized around evaluation questions. For each question, there is a concise explanation of how to apply it in the evaluation of research reports. â € Numerous examples from journals in the social and behavioral sciences illustrate the application of the evaluation questions. Students see actual examples of strong and weak features of published reports. â € Commonsense models for evaluation combined with a lack of jargon make it possible for students to start evaluating research articles the first week of class. â € The structure of this book enables students to work with confidence while evaluating articles for homework. â € Avoids oversimplification in the evaluation process by describing the nuances that may make an article publishable even though it has serious methodological flaws. Students learn when and why certain types of flaws may be tolerated. They learn why evaluation should not be performed mechanically. â € This book received very high student evaluations when field-tested with students just beginning their study of research methods. â € Contains more than 60 new examples from recently published research. In addition, minor changes have been made throughout for consistency with the latest edition of the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

I was required to buy the Fifth Edition (2013) of Fred Pyrczakâ €â € s book Evaluating Research in

Academic Journals for a master's level course in library and information science. Most college students have some familiarity with searching for articles in academic journals, but many don't have a clue about how to assess the accuracy, validity, or reliability of those articles. Pyrczak's book provides some good instruction on how to go about this content appraisal process. The book consists of a series of checklists for evaluating different parts of an article: titles, abstracts, introductions and literature reviews, analysis and results sections, etc. Each checklist is a series of questions supplemented by Pyrczak's explanatory comments and examples pulled from real articles, mostly in the field of psychology. In design and writing style it has the feel of a workbook. Each chapter ends with a brief series of exercises for self testing. This book will serve as a helpful guide not only for assessing other scholars' articles but also for writing your own. A lot of what Pyrczak has to say is just common sense, but even so it's helpful to have the criteria for good academic writing spelled out for you in a straightforward fashion. When writing a paper or article, this book provides a helpful reminder of what and what not to do—almost like a cheat sheet, but more elaborate. The workbook format gets annoying after a while, because there's a fair amount of redundancy in the text. Each example is introduced twice, once in the paragraph that precedes it and then again in a heading that says the exact same thing. An evaluation scale from 1 to 5 placed after each question is unnecessary (as if you're only going to use the book once, for one article). The book is bigger and longer than it needs to be. Rather than an 8.5" x 11" book of 162 pages, it probably could have been edited and designed down to a 100 page pocket guide. Perhaps a smaller size could translate into a lower price. Though it's a useful book, the big type, loose layout, and excessive repetition do make you wonder if it's worth what you paid for it.

This was a required course in my Research Methods class for my MA in Mental Health Counseling. When I first received it I thought: "Are you joking me! I just paid a fortune for this?" But, working through the exercises really sharpened my ability to scan research articles in my field & separate quality research from poor research. It also prepared me to write up my own research. I have referred to it several times since completing the course--and I cannot say that about too many of my textbooks. So, yes, painfully expensive, but worthwhile.

I purchased this book for my Masters level class. It was extremely helpful throughout the quarter and I am sure I will be able to use it as a reference for future courses as well as in my professional practice.

I feel this book is very useful for Master or Doctorate degree students. It is also useful for any researcher who is going to review a topic. It systematically describes how to search data, collect data, evaluate data, and write a review for them. Strongly recommended.

I purchased this for my experimental and thesis classes in psychology. It is very helpful for reviewing journal articles and writing lab reports.

NOT a textbook approach! Easy to read but very informative review of how research articles are designed and how to evaluate. Highly recommended!

The book is easy to read and follow in order to analyze journal articles. Anyone pursuing research needs to get a copy.

This not only was the exact book at a great price but a book I will keep to refer to as I learn.

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