

Methods in Case Study Research for School Library Media Evaluation

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A case study is a deep analysis of the complexity in a single program or site.

(Stake, 1995)

A case is a bounded context for one to study events, processes, and outcomes.

(Miles & Huberman, 1984)

Defining both the *case* and the *issue* is critical in doing a case study.

Evaluation of the National Library Power Program

Case

A. Site-level program

B. School-level program

Issues

A. Program implementation

**B. Interaction with instructional
program**

Major Areas for Study

- 1. Library collection**
- 2. Curriculum**
- 3. Instruction**
- 4. Collaboration (librarian, teachers, principal)**
- 5. Planning**
- 6. Vision**
- 7. Sustainability/institutionalization**
- 8. Library Power's local design and potential**
- 9. Changing role of libraries in schools**

Quality of Research

Validity

Reliability

Generalizability

Steps in Conducting A Case Study

- 1. Define the case and issues**
- 2. Develop main research questions**
- 3. Identify informants**
- 4. Arrange site visit including observations, interviews, and document collection**
- 5. Gather data**
- 6. Code data**
- 7. Identify major themes and stories**
- 8. Triangulate data**
- 9. Write case report**

Sample Questions

What have been the major changes to the collection and how have these changes been associated with Library Power?

How have procedures for collection development changed from before Library Power to now?

What changes have been made in how the library media specialist participates in curriculum decision making because of Library Power?

How has the library media specialist provided instructional leadership?

Guidelines for Field Observations

- 1. Anticipation**
- 2. First visit**
- 3. Further preparation for observations**
- 4. Further developoment of conceptualization**
- 5. Gather and validate data**
- 6. Analyze data**
- 7. Reporting**

**Present a substantial
body of uncontestable
descriptions.**