

**BOOK REVIEW**

**ABOUT THE BOOK**

Mills , A J., Durepos G., & Wiebe E. (2010). *Encyclopedia of Case Study Research*, SAGE Publications, INC. 1ISBN: 9781412956703, 152 pages, 390\$

**REVIEWED BY**

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**Background Information About the Book  
and its Authors**

Albert J. Mills (Professor Management) is Director of the PhD program at Saint Mary University (Nova Scotia Canada). Mills interest in knowledge has lead him to exploration of management education and the role of research strategies including historiography, case study, and post positivistic research methods. He served as an active researcher and executive member of several research organizations. He is the Editorial board member of *Qualitative research in management and education*, *Management and Organizational History*. He is engaged in a series of ongoing case studies of airline companies and histories of management thought and scholarly associations in North America.

Gabrielle Durepos is an Assistant Professor at St. Francis Xavier University in Nova Scotia, Canada, where she teaches organizational behavior. Her research interests are far ranging and include history, historiography, the sociology of knowledge, epistemology, knowledge, organizational ethics etc. Durepos has published her work in peer reviewed journals, including, *Management and Organizational History*, and *Journal of Management History*.

Elden Wiebe is an Associate Professor of business, department of management and commerce, The King's University College, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. Weibe's recent work has combined his interests in organizational change and time. His initial work with colleagues has been published in the *Journal of Management Inquiry*. Wiebe is a member of the Academy of Management, and the Administrative Science Association of Canada.

## Summary

Case study methodology has relatively long history within the sciences, social sciences, and humanities. Much of the early case study case study research was incorporated in qualitative research but there are evidences that integrate qualitative research design with quantitative methods as research approaches. Over a period of time, case study methods gathered distinct inquisitiveness in several disciplines as scholars started applying this method to study phenomena in environment. Since there is the widespread uses of quantitative techniques and other forms of qualitative research diminutive attention among the literature on research strategies.

The book 'Encyclopedia of Case Study Research' has come out in two different volumes. In order to identify the topics and themes the authors describe a case study as "a research strategy rather than as a single tool for decision making and inquiry. The unique feature of this book is in its approach of compilation which cover, establishment of a framework, analysis of the inter connectedness, and using insights into development of theories. The book is a better guide rather dictate the forms and approaches that a research to be followed in case study research. This encyclopedia tries to focus purely on case study research and it has two volumes contains 357 entries that cross disciplines and methodological traditions, from a positivist to post positivist. Each signed entry goes beyond a simple conceptual overview and discussion of the topic to provide analysis of how the concept can be applied, exemplifying application in specific case studies. The signed entry having its orientation in the establishment of understanding and applications of case study research with a critical summary in each entry. Key Features Presents a definition of case study research that can be used in different fields of study.

The book provides a reader's guide that to assist readers in locating articles on related topics. It classifies articles into nine general topical categories. They are:

1. Academic Disciplines
2. Case Study Research Design
3. Conceptual Issues
4. Data Analysis
5. Data Collection
6. Methodological Approaches

7. Theoretical Traditions
8. Theory Development and Contributions From Case Study Research
9. Types of Case Study Research

### **Evaluation**

A case study is anticipated to grab the complexity of a single phenomenon under consideration. The case study approach is functional not only in the social sciences, such as psychology, sociology, anthropology, and economics, but also in practice-oriented fields such as environmental studies, social work, education, and business studies though originally deep roots within a scientific method, the case study seized even border acceptance within the social sciences and has been found to be especially respected in many practice oriented fields like education, management, public administration and the human services. Though the methodology is well aware what makes the differences in application of varied forms of case studies methodologies are still a mirage to research scholars, students and professionals. It is widely acknowledged that no encyclopedic reference offers a detailed outline of the design and methods in case study research as guidance for researchers, students, and professionals who engaged in qualitative and quantitative research that to substantiate their research method sound enough to achieve generalizations.

The book "The Encyclopedia of Case Study Research" is a masterpiece of the collection of thoughts from varied authors on extending better understanding of important methodological issues in conducting case study research. More than 250 contributors from around the world have written 357 entries, which are arranged in alphabetical order, from positivist to post-positivist. What makes this orientation striking is the writers' approach to case-study research, which passes philosophical orientations and research. Something which different from other books is that this book not only concentrates on the positive aspects of a method, but it also clearly spells out the weakness in its applications. This provides the researcher to evaluate the pros and cons of the selection of varied forms of research method. It clearly guides the researcher make use of varied case study research method, based on the topic and field of study. Within the entries, the reader will recognize a variety of meanings of "case study" across disciplines but will also see the common threads among them.

Overall, this encyclopedia offers a broad understanding and experience to the researchers, student and professionals on case study research and methodology to adopt on varied phenomena under study.

### **Conclusion**

A major feature of this book 'Encyclopedia of Case Study Research' is that it provides 'guidance' to the readers, rather, in an authoritarian way dictates what must be followed rigorously as case research method. In general, the researchers, students and professionals are confused with the definition of case study. One of the key feature of this book is that it represents a definition of case study research that can be used in diverse fields. The book further consider the case study methodology as a device to get better direction in deep rooted probing and decision making. Majority books in the case study research available in the market includes more the theoretical aspects rather application side of the methods and process. Being different from those books, this book extent assistance to the researchers in the application side of each method and process. The content of the book is highly beneficial to students, researchers and professionals since it integrate conceptual overview, discussion of key issues, a critical summary, cross-references and references to additional sources. The book integrates its content in a way that's suitable in conducting both qualitative and quantitative research.