



By Dr. Telly Kamelia

Research-methods books are often judged too quickly by students who only want to get through one class. That is understandable, but it is often a mistake. A solid methods text becomes more valuable when proposals, capstones, dissertations, and applied workplace studies start to feel real. For ISBN 9781544342382, the central question is simple: do you need the cheapest short-term access, or do you need a scholar-practitioner guide worth keeping?

If you only need the buying answer

The cheapest short-term path here is semester rental at about **\$43.31**. If you are thinking only about one course, that route wins on price. But the current new print listing at **\$61.81** is almost identical to the digital price at **\$62.40**, and only modestly above the used-market floor at **\$56.01**. That makes this a genuine split decision: rental is best for one-semester use, while print is the stronger ownership choice if you expect to revisit research design later.

Price comparison

Store	Format	Condition	Price	Link
Merybook	Paperback	New	\$61.81	Check price
Amazon	Paperback	Used	\$56.01	Check used market
Amazon	eTextbook	Digital	\$62.40	Check digital option
eCampus	Semester rental	Rental	\$43.31	Check rental option
eCampus	Paperback	New	\$123.61	Check new market

What this price means in practice

This is a classic methods-book split. Rental wins if your time horizon is one semester and you are being strict about cost. But once the new print copy is basically tied with digital, the ownership decision becomes more attractive. You are no longer paying a premium for paper. You are deciding whether you want to keep a methods guide that may still matter when the next project begins.

That is why I would not automatically recommend digital here. Digital is not giving you a meaningful discount. It is only giving you a different format. For students who highlight heavily, compare design types side by side, or revisit methodology chapters while writing, print is usually the better long-run tool.

What this book actually teaches

Research Design and Methods: An Applied Guide for the Scholar-Practitioner is built around the decisions that make or break real studies: clarifying the research problem, selecting an appropriate design, connecting methodology to practical settings, and thinking carefully about evidence rather than treating research as an abstract ritual.

That matters because scholar-practitioner texts live or die by whether they help readers move from vague interest to defensible design choices. A good applied methods book is not valuable merely for definitions. It is valuable because it helps students reason through why a design fits a question, what evidence can actually support a claim, and where weak methodological choices begin to distort practice. Those are exactly the kinds of decisions that tend to return after the course is over.

Who should rent, and who should buy

Rent the book if this is your only methods course and your goal is minimizing first cost. That is the cleanest short-term answer in this snapshot.

Buy print if you expect to write proposals, build capstones, complete a thesis or dissertation, or use research reasoning in professional settings later. In that case, the small gap between rental and ownership is often worth paying.

Sources checked

Sources checked: Merybook listing search for ISBN 9781544342382, Amazon marketplace pricing, and eCampus new and rental pricing. Pricing reviewed April 19, 2026.