



# Introduction to Research in Education

*By Donald Ary, Lucy Cheser Jacobs, Christine K. Sorensen, David Walker*

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### **Review**

"I enjoy the authors' writing styles and the examples given to explain certain terms and concepts."

"I like the clear references and examples for difficult topics, especially research methodologies and various types of analyses. Students tend to be fearful of statistics and research, in general, when they start the course, so a text that provides a lot of practical information in a readable, understandable way is important."

### **About the Author**

In addition to being a co-author of the first eight editions of *INTRODUCTION TO RESEARCH IN EDUCATION*, Donald Ary co-authored two books in statistics, *INTRODUCTION TO STATISTICS: PURPOSES AND PROCEDURES* (With L. C. Jacobs), and *ANALYZING QUANTITATIVE BEHAVIORAL OBSERVATION DATA* (with H. K. Suen). He is also co-author of the educational psychology text, *READINGS IN CLASSROOM LEARNING AND PERCEPTION* (with R. J. Mueller and E. C. McCormick). He wrote chapters for three books and published 35 journal articles, six of them in *Behavioral Assessment*. He presented 30 papers at professional conferences, including 12 at the American Educational Research Association, and six at the Association for Behavioral Analysis. He taught research design, statistics, measurement, and educational psychology, first at Indiana University, then at Northern Illinois University. There, he was director of the Educational Psychology and Special Education Research Office and served as interim chair of the Department of Educational Psychology, Counseling, and Special Education. He served as consultant to various educational offices in Illinois and to the Bureau of Elementary and Secondary Education, U.S. Office of Education. He also served on the editorial board of *Research in Developmental Disabilities*. Dr. Ary had a B.S. in education from Wilmington College of Ohio, an M.S. in education from Syracuse University, and a Ph.D. from the University of Iowa. He was an elementary teacher for three years in Ohio and seven years with the U.S. Department of Defense Dependents' Schools in England.

Lucy Cheser Jacobs has a B.S. in chemistry from Catharine Spalding College in Kentucky, and a M.S. and Ph.D. in educational psychology from Indiana University-Bloomington. She received a John H. Edwards fellowship during graduate study. Dr. Jacobs taught research methodology, statistics, measurement, and educational psychology courses at Indiana University. She served as Director of the Bureau of Evaluative Studies for several years, where she conducted institutional research studies. Before beginning graduate studies, she taught high school chemistry for three years in Kentucky. She has co-authored *INTRODUCTION TO RESEARCH IN EDUCATION* (nine editions) and *INTRODUCTION TO STATISTICS* (both with D. Ary), and *DEVELOPING AND USING TESTS EFFECTIVELY* (with C. Chase). She held membership in AERA and NCME and presented papers at their annual conferences.

Christine K. Sorensen is the Dean of the College of Education at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. She holds a bachelor's degree in speech from the University of Houston and masters and doctoral degrees from Iowa State University in professional studies in education. Prior to coming to the University of Hawaii, she served from 2001 to 2007 as Dean of the College of Education at Northern Illinois University, where she began her professorial career in 1996. Earlier in her career Dr. Sorensen was a research and evaluation specialist at the Research Institute for Studies in Education at Iowa State. While in that position, she was involved in conducting research in schools across the state as well as leading and participating in regional and national studies. She was the lead evaluation specialist on projects funded by such agencies as the U.S.

Department of Education, the National Science Foundation (NSF), the Kellogg Foundation, the National Institute for Standards and Technology (NIST), and the Fund for the Improvement of Post Secondary Education (FIPSE). Dr. Sorensen has an extensive record in grants (more than a dozen funded) including multimillion-dollar federal grants related to teacher education and to technology. Her research areas have focused on technology integration in education. Dr. Sorensen has taught courses in research, evaluation, and higher education, and has expertise in both quantitative and qualitative methods of research.

David A. Walker is a Professor of Educational Research, Technology, and Assessment at Northern Illinois University (NIU). He holds a bachelor's degree from St. Olaf College and masters and doctoral degrees from Iowa State University of Science and Technology (ISU). Prior to NIU, he served on the faculty at Florida Atlantic University and was a post-doctorate researcher at ISU's Research Institute for Studies in Education. Dr. Walker has an extensive research record with 74 refereed publications, 12 monographs and technical reports, 111 refereed conference presentations, 22 invited presentations, and 142 statistical computer program creations. A majority of these scholarly works pertain to the themes of statistical methodology and/or research methods in areas such as effect sizes, reliability measures, and the general linear model. He has been involved in numerous federal and state-based grants, with over 7 million funded, as an evaluator in projects affiliated with teacher education. Dr. Walker has taught courses in research methods, assessment, testing, measurement, and statistics and has expertise in quantitative methods of research.

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