

Research Question and Strategy Lookup Table

Strategy	Form of research question	Requires control of mechanisms surrounding object of study	Focuses on temporal mechanism surrounding an event
Fixed, experimental	how or why	Yes	Yes
Fixed, non-experimental	what, who, where, how many, or how much	No	Yes
Flexible, grounded theory or ethnography, or case study	how or why	No	Yes
Flexible, hermeneutics or archival analysis	what, who, where, how many, or how much	No	Yes/No
Flexible, history	how or why	No	No

(Adapted by Olusola Samuel-Ojo from Robson 2002; Yin 2003)

Robson, C. (2002). Real World Research: a resource for social scientists and practitioner-researchers, Blackwell Publishing.

Yin, R. K. (2003). Case study research: design and methods. London, Sage Publications.