



Commissioning social research a good practice guide

Essential reading for all involved in social research

The way in which social research is commissioned is important. It affects the quality, usefulness and value for money of the research, and the livelihood of researchers.



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Social research is not an inert commodity but a highly variable service which depends heavily on the skills and performance of the researchers involved.

Buying practices vary enormously, and there is widespread concern among both buyers and suppliers of research about aspects of the process. Cumbersome or inappropriate procurement procedures can get in the way of commissioning well-focused and cost-effective studies.

This is why the Social Research Association (SRA) has just published a new edition of its good practice guide, *Commissioning social research*.

Guidelines are fine, but the important thing is the way those involved in research commissioning actually behave. The SRA wants to encourage research practitioners, managers and purchasers:

- to take a fresh look at what they do
- to develop and disseminate better practices

Our guidelines should provide a good starting point – but they will only be effective if they are actually used.

- **Make sure you have a copy. If you don't have one already you should download it (free) from www.the-sra.org.uk or buy a ready printed copy from the SRA using the form below.**
- **Do read it, think about it, and pass it on to your colleagues, suppliers and customers. and let us know what you agree or disagree with.**



Please send me _____ copies of **Commissioning social research**.

I enclose a cheque/postal order for £ _____ (£10 per copy including p&p.)

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