

Contents

List of Figures and Tables	xi
Preface	xvii
Acknowledgments	xxi

PART I

A BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS RESEARCH 1

The Operant Research Model	3
Important Methodological Milestones	4
Science and Clinical Success	7
A Journal Is Born	8
A Paradigm Shift	8
The Dimensions of Applied Behavior Analysis	9
Summary	15
How to Use This Book	15

PART II

RESEARCH METHODS IN APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS: 10 STEPS FOR SUCCESSFUL RESEARCH 17

Step 1: Determine Your “Research-Ready” Situation; Select Your General Topic; Find a Great Setting and Participants	19
Situation 1: “Free Agent”	19
Situation 2: “Designated Hitter”	31
Situation 3: “Under Contract”	35
Summary	36
Step 2: Narrow Down Your Research Question	37
Situation 1: “Free Agent”	37
Situation 2: “Designated Hitter”	47
Situation 3: “Under Contract”	49
Summary	50

Step 3: Decide on and Define Your Dependent and Independent Variables	51
Situation 1: "Free Agent"	51
Situation 2: "Designated Hitter"	60
Situation 3: "Under Contract"	63
Summary	65
Step 4: Establish Social Validity	67
Three Features of Social Validation	67
A Brief History of Social Validation	68
Four Operational Steps of Social Validation	69
Examples of Research Using Social Validation	69
Habilitative Validity	71
Summary	74
Step 5: Create Your Data Collection Systems	75
Dimensions of Behavior	75
Complex Behaviors	79
Types of Measurement	80
Setting Up Your Data Collection System	93
Summary	111
Step 6: Pilot Test Your Key Variables	113
Pilot Testing Your Dependent Variable(s) and Measurement System	114
Pilot Testing Your Independent Variable(s)	116
Summary	119
Step 7: Identify the Appropriate Research Design	121
Notes to Beginning Researchers	121
The Purpose of Research Design	121
Characteristics and Logic of Single-Case Design Research	123
Exploratory Methods/Weak "Designs"	126
Behavior Analysis Research Designs	131
Multiple-Baseline Designs	141
Limiting Conditions of the Multiple-Baseline Design	147
Multielement Baseline Designs (aka Alternating Treatments Design)	154
Summary	162
Step 8: Conduct an Ethics Check	163
Ethics: The 8th Dimension of Behavior Analysis	163
Free Agents, Designated Hitters and Under Contract Researchers	164
The BACB's Professional and Ethical Compliance Code	164
Summary	171

Step 9: Carry Out Your Research Project	173
Free Agents, Designated Hitters and Under Contract Researchers	173
Preparing Your Contact Person	173
Preparing Your Observers	173
Final Preparations	174
Getting Ready for Day 1	174
Preparing for the First Intervention	176
Managing the Rest of Your Study	176
Wrapping Up Your Study	177
Summary	178
 Step 10: Graph and Analyze Your Data	 179
The Virtues of Visual Analysis	179
What to Look for When Analyzing Your Data	181
Guidelines for the Design of Graphs in Applied Behavior Analysis	184
What Next?	189
 PART III	
EVALUATING BEHAVIORAL RESEARCH	191
Instructions to Students	192
Questions to Ask About Single-Case Design Studies	193
Fatal Flaws to Watch Out For	195
 PART IV	
USING APPLIED RESEARCH FINDINGS IN CLINICAL AND EDUCATIONAL SETTINGS	199
Background	199
Instructions to Students	199
The Questions	200
The Adaptations	201
 PART V	
GOING PUBLIC	203
Giving a Data or Other Presentation	203
Ignite Presentations	209
Presenting a Poster	209
Publishing Your Research	211
Summary	216
References	217
Index	229
About the Authors	233