

TABLE 2.2

Criminal Justice Research Strategies

RESEARCH STRATEGY	TYPES	ISSUES
Surveys	Face-to-face	Not everyone wants to participate
	Telephone	Levels of comprehension vary among respondents
	On-site administration	Rapport needs to be developed
	Mail	Some respondents may not be honest
	Electronic	
Archival Research	Police records	Records are not flexible
	Prosecutor's records	Methods of record maintenance change over time
	Judicial records	Records may be missing
	Trial transcripts	Cannot probe deeper than records allow
	Social services records	
	Newspaper articles	
	Websites	
	Television shows	
	Music lyrics	
Experiments	Textbooks and other publications	
	Classic experiment	Criminal justice scholars are not always well-trained to do experiments
	Natural experiment	Some studies are seen as artificial because of researcher manipulation
	Field experiment	
	Quasi-experiment	
Field Studies	Complete observer	These studies are time consuming
	Participant as observer	Respondents react to being observed
	Complete participant	Gaining access to the field is difficult
Case Studies	Focus on famous criminal	These studies lack explanatory power
	Focus on typical criminal	They are difficult to conduct without proper training
	Focus on criminal event	Multiple methods are used in case studies
	Focus on criminal justice process	