What is it?

The method chapter provides an overview of the design and implementation of your research.

What should it include?

The job of a methods chapter is:

1. To summarise, explain and recount how you answered your research questions and to explain how this relates to the methods used by other scholars in similar contexts and those conducting similar studies.
2. To discuss – in detail – the techniques you used to collect the data used to answer your research questions.
3. To discuss why the techniques are relevant to the study's aims and objectives.
4. To explain how you used them.

You should explain clearly:

1. What you did to achieve the research aims.
2. Why you chose this particular approach over others.
3. How it relates to your epistemological and ontological positions.
4. What tools you used to collect the data and why, plus the implications of doing so.
5. When you collected data, and from whom.
6. What tools you used to analyze the data and why. What the implications are of doing so and what ethical considerations you had to take into account.

What should you avoid?

- Don't be descriptive.
- Avoid going into too much detail. You can include fine details (about, say, interview questions) in an appendix.
- Avoid presenting findings in the methods discussion.
- Avoid claiming that your research design is perfect. It isn't, and you should acknowledge that.

How can you make it great?

- When the reader is finished they should be able to recreate the study themselves with the information you've provided.
- Be critical by interrogating particular design decisions.

How does it relate to other chapters?

- It builds upon the outcome of the literature review in that it details the study that is designed to address the gap highlighted there.
- It flows logically from the theory framework, by detailing how concepts, variables or models are operationalised and measured.
- It provides the bridge between the background and the findings chapters.

Notes:

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