



Welcome

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Advanced Literature Review

By

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Traditional Lit Review

- * A "traditional" literature review provides an overview of the research findings on particular topics. A traditional literature is written by examining a body of published work, then writing a critical summary (an impressionistic overview) of the body of literature. The purpose of a literature review is make clear for a reader what the research collectively indicates with regard to a particular issue or question.
- * Literature reviews are vital documents for organizing and making accessible the major findings in an area of inquiry. Literature reviews are often used, for example, to inform policy and future research directions. Conducting reviews of literature is particularly important as a field of inquiry expands or changes.
- * A good traditional literature review will usually consider research evidence in light of an established theoretical framework. A theoretical context can enable meaningful synthesis and interpretation of research findings (e.g., see the review by Barret & Greenaway, 1995b).

Traditional Lit Review: Strengths & Weaknesses

- * A traditional literature review is not foolproof - it has some strengths and weaknesses. The method involves authors reading original (primary) studies , taking notes, organizing themes, and immersing themselves in the research literature in order to develop a comprehensive understanding of the main findings.
- * **Strength:** When a traditional review is systematically conducted by an expert in the field, insightful, valid syntheses of the research literature can be developed and sometimes unique insight is generated .
- * **Weakness:** The traditional literature method leaves authors vulnerable to unintentional and intentional bias in the selection, interpretation and organization of content. In addition, it is difficult for the statistical power of empirical studies to be considered in interpreting many studies. As a result traditional reviewers regularly emphasize the statistical significance results , rather than the effect sizes. In fields with research that has low power, traditional literature reviews may be compromised by this potentially serious issue.

Choosing Your Topic

- * In this class you will conduct a literature review, write an annotated bibliography, and then write a final formal literature review.
- * Choose a topic that you are interested in.
- * Take a quick preliminary look at what journal articles are available. You may find that there is nothing available that you can use or which you are interested in, or even change your topic if you find something more appealing.
- * Do not be afraid to let the literature guide you. If the literature is suggesting another approach you are wise to follow-through if it is something you are interested in.
- * Choose a topic that is of use to you as well as interesting.

Letting the Literature Guide You

- * You should begin your review of the literature with a general idea of where you want to go.
- * However, inevitably you will come across a theme or subtopic which you had not anticipated. This could be a series of related journal articles.

Why Literature Survey?

- * After the introduction, the next section/chapter in a study is the literature review. The relevant literature is found and reviewed, and may combine literatures previously not combined.
- * The thesis/research paper needs to show a good grasp of the existing literature. There needs to be an argument about how this will add to the existing knowledge in a particular field/subject.
- * Familiarity with the literature allows a researcher to avoid needlessly repeating work and in turn to contribute something new.
- * A literature built of meticulously prepared, carefully reviewed contributions fosters the growth of a field.
- * The writing process initially requires a thorough review and evaluation of previous work in the literature, which helps acquaint one with the field as a whole and establishes whether one's idea is truly new and significant
- * Having developed the initial research question, the researcher's task is then to find out what the literature indicates on the first formulation of the question.

Place of Literature Review in Research

- * The literature review examines **recent** or historically **significant research studies**, company data, or industry reports that act as a **basis** for the proposed study.
- * The **discussion** should begin **citing** the **relevant secondary data** from a **comprehensive perspective**.
- * From more **broader** details, the discussion should come to **more specific** studies that are **closely associated** with the problem under study.
- * The researcher however should **avoid the extraneous details** of the literature and do a **brief review** of the information that may not result into a bulky **comprehensive report**.
- * **While, quoting, citing and referencing the secondary data sources, always refer to the original source.**
 - * It is imperative to avoid errors of interpretation or transcription. That implies that if something of interest is found in a quotation or research publication, the original source may be found to refer.

Place of Literature Review Contd.

- * While doing literature review, the researcher should emphasize:
 - * The important results and conclusions of other studies,
 - * The relevant data and trends from previous research,
 - * Particular methods and designs that could be duplicated or avoided.
- * The researcher should also:
 - * Discuss how the literature applies to the study being proposed,
 - * Show the weakness or faults in the design and how he/she would avoid similar problems