

LITERATURE REVIEW NOTES

A) General Process

1. Plan before you start writing – creating a mind map or outline can help to clarify your thinking before you start drafting.
2. Familiarise yourself with the literature to learn what's been done and what's already known
3. Organise the materials around themes, issues or questions rather than individual papers
4. Critically review the information to identify things like assumptions, limitations, deficiencies, lack of clarity, methodological weaknesses, gaps, controversies and problems in existing knowledge or practice that need to be addressed.
5. Refine as you write – give yourself time to write many drafts, and refine the writing and structure of your argument as you go. Look for repetition and common themes.

B) Types of Literature Review

1. Systematic Review
 - a. Has a clear question or hypothesis to be answered
 - b. Searches are rigorous to locate all potentially relevant literature
 - c. Includes explicit inclusion exclusion criteria
 - d. Assesses study quality for inclusion and provides a synthesis of results
2. Narrative (Traditional) Review
 - a. Starts with a question but includes general discussion and no hypothesis
 - b. Does not locate all relevant literature
 - c. Does not have explicit inclusion / exclusion criteria
 - d. Does not always require included studies to be methodologically sound or of a certain quality

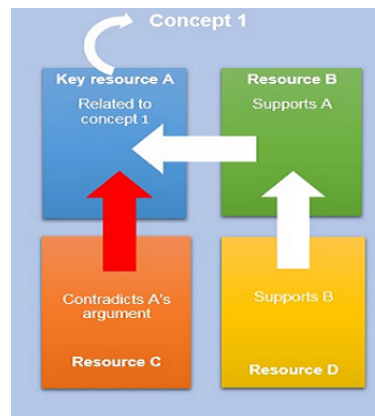
C) Purpose of Literature Review

1. Justify your research
2. Provide context for your research
3. Ensure that the research has not been done before
4. Highlight flaws in previous research
5. Identify new ways, to interpret and highlight gaps in previous research
6. Signpost a way forward for further research
7. Show where your research fits into the existing literature

D) Elements of a Literature reviews

1. An overview of the subject, issue or theory under consideration, along with the objectives of the literature review

- a. Problem formulation—which topic or field is being examined and what are its component issues?
2. A review of the most pertinent literature, works or achievements related to the problem at hand. This can include a few general works and a few significant applications or research studies. This can be a sample of the relevant literature, stated as an indication of what will be extended.
3. Literature search—finding materials relevant to the subject being explored
 - a. Division of works under review into categories (e.g. those in support of a particular position, those against, and those offering alternative theses entirely)
4. Explanation of how each work is similar to and how it varies from the others
 - a. Analysis and interpretation—discussing the findings and conclusions of pertinent literature



*image taken from

<https://www.monash.edu/rlo/graduate-research-writing/write-the-thesis/introduction-literature-reviews>

5. Conclusions as to which pieces are best considered in their argument, are most convincing of their opinions, and make the greatest contribution to the understanding and development of their area of research
 - a. Data evaluation—determining which literature makes a significant contribution to the understanding of the topic

References

https://researchguides.njit.edu/ld.php?content_id=32213378

<https://guides.library.uq.edu.au/computer-science/literature-review>

<https://guides.library.uq.edu.au/research-techniques/systematic-reviews>