## Writing A Literature Review

In introducing this topic, we shall be considering the following in this tranche:

1. What literature review is.

2. Basic guidelines for writing a literature review.

3. The importance of a literature review.

4. How to prepare and write a good literature review.

#### **Need to Understand What Literature Review is**

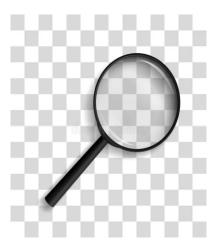
■ A literature review is a thorough evaluation of scholarly texts on a particular subject.

It gives an overview of existing knowledge, enabling for the development of relevant concepts, approaches, and research gaps for use in a paper, thesis, or dissertation.

### There are five basic phases to writing a literature review.

- 1 Find and document relevant literature
- 2 Assess and choose sources

- 3 Determine the subject matter (major concepts of the work), issues arising, and existing gaps.
- 4 Outline the format of your literature review.
- 5 Begin to write the literature review



# Guide for Writing a Literature Review



**Begin to write** 

Find pertinent publications



**Assess and choose sources** 



Format the structure



**Determine the concept of the work** 

#### **Importance of Literature Review**

### The literature review provides opportunity to:

 Demonstrate good understanding of the subject and the academic context.

- Provide a theoretical framework and research approach.
- Situate the work in relation to other researchers' and theories'

 Prove that the planned study fills a void or advances a discussion.

- Assess the state of the field's research and show that you are aware of the scholarly arguments around it.
- \*\*A properly prepared literature review demonstrates possession of crucial skill for a career (work) in research.

## Writing the literature review

■ To commence, clearly specify the subject.

• Then look for literature on the research problem and question.

#### Generate a list of keywords

• To begin, compile a list of keywords associated with the study subject.

 Compile a list of similar words and related phrases that may be essential to the key concepts.

Example of Keywords:

Climate change, Populations, Culture, Infectious Disease

#### **Engage relevant sources**

Start your source search by using the keywords. A few databases that may be useful include:

- •University's library catalogue
- •Google Scholar
- Medline (life sciences and biomedicine)
- Project Muse (humanities and social sciences)
- •Inspec (physics, engineering and computer science)

- To determine whether an article is relevant to your issue, make sure to go through the abstract.
- If found helpful, check through the bibliography to locate further important materials.
- Ensure that the question/s outlined in the research problem is adequately addressed in the review written.
- Conclusions drawn from the review must be made clear for other readers.

List and elaborate on all that you have learnt on writing a good
Literature review.