

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



Find pertinent publications



Assess and choose sources



Determine the concept of the work



Begin to write



Format the structure

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.*