

Systematic Literature Review in the Field of Research



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Literature Review

The review of literature

- ❖ is a written summary of articles, books, and other documents that describes the past and current state of knowledge about a topic.
- ❖ involves the systematic identification, location, and analysis of documents containing information related to the research problem.

- ❖ The review of literature is a summary of all the reviews from various research literatures related to the current study carried out by a researcher.
- ❖ It helps to discover what is already known about the research problem and what more has to be done.

- ❖ According to Abdellah and Levine, the material gathered in literature review should be included as a part of the research data, since it influence the problem and research design it can be used to compare the results and findings for the current study.
- ❖ An organized written presentation of what has been published on a topic by the scholars. (Burns and Grove, 2005)
- ❖ An Account of what has been published by accredited scholars and researchers. (Taylor, 2011)

Need of Literature Review

- Identifying and defining the problem.
- Surveying the literature relating to the research problem.
- Formulating the hypotheses.
- Identifying, defining and controlling variables.
- Selecting the research design.
- Selecting sample
- Construction of tests
- Establishing the reliability and validity of the tests.

- Selecting tools.
- Collection of Data.
- Applying statistical techniques.
- Analysis/interpretation.
- Drawing conclusions from the Data.
- Discussion/results.
- Suggestions for future research study
- Bibliography

Purpose of Literature Review

- ❑ Establish a theoretical framework for your topic/subject area.
- ❑ Define key terms, definitions and terminology.
- ❑ Identify studies, models, case studies etc. supporting your topic.
- ❑ Define/establish your area of study, i.e. your research topic.

Systematic Review of Related Literature : An Overview

Systematic Review seeks to:

- **Identify** all relevant published and unpublished evidence
- **Assess critically the quality of each study/ literature**
- **Synthesise the findings/ conclusion** from each study/ literature **in an unbiased way**
- **Interpret the findings/ conclusion**
- **present a balanced and impartial summary of the findings/ conclusion**
(with due consideration of any **flaws** in the evidence.)

Key points of Literature Review

- ✚ Tell me what the research says (Theory)
- ✚ Tell me how the research was carried out (Methodology)
- ✚ Tell me what is missing (the gap that your research intends to fill. Ideas arranged in a logical manner)

Steps of Literature Review



Procedure for Reviewing the Literature

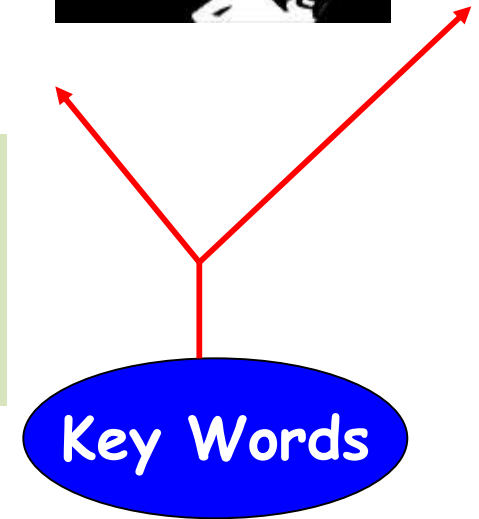
- Identify the relevant sources
- Search for existing literature in your area of study
- Review the literature selected
- Develop a theoretical framework
- Develop a conceptual framework
- Extract and report relevant information
- Write-up the literature review

Writing of Systematic Review : Steps

Step One

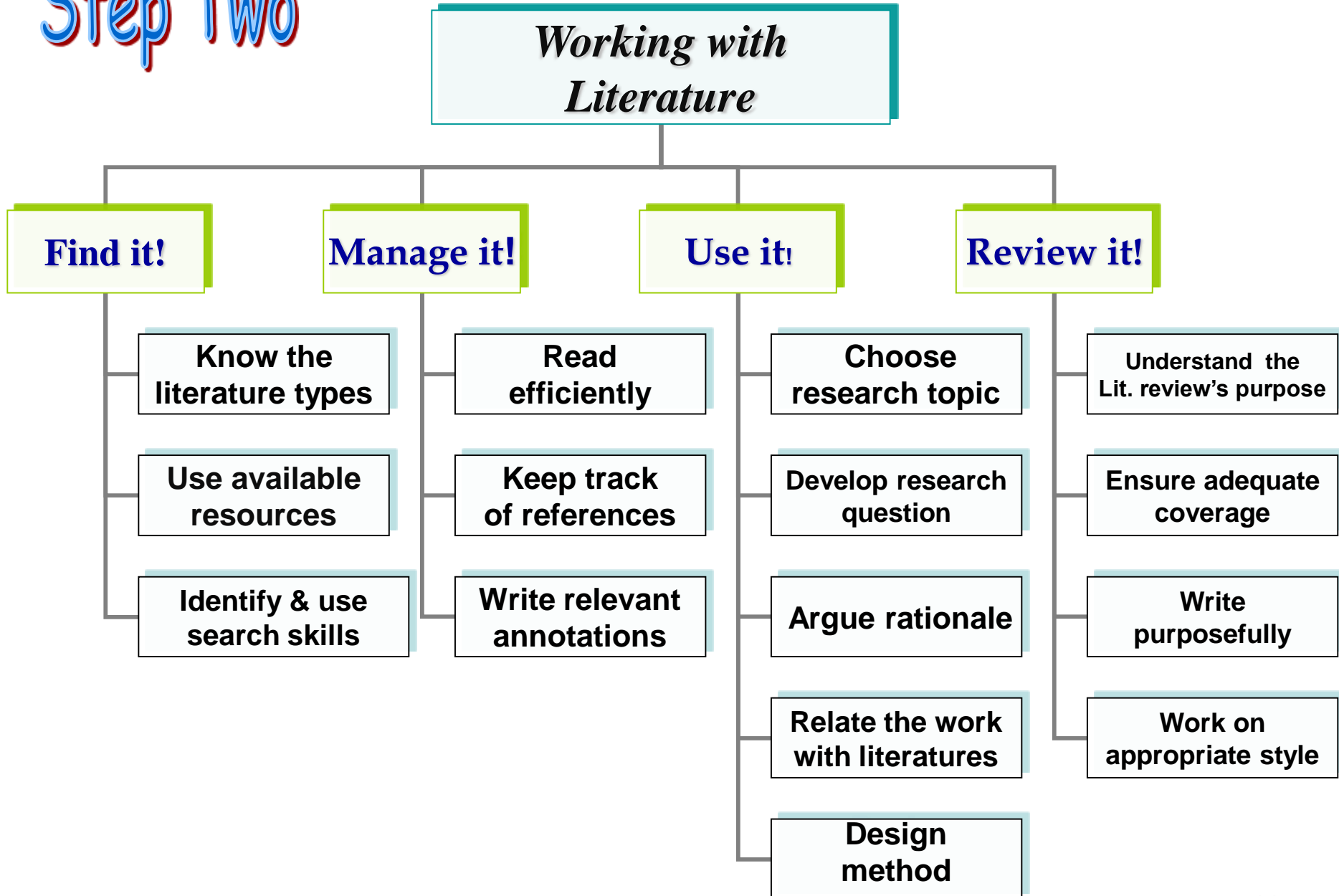
Identifying Key Terms

- Write a **preliminary working title**, select a **few important words** that capture the essence of the study.



Step Two

Locating Literature



Sources of Research Literature

Encyclopedias

Dictionaries and Glossaries of Terms

Handbooks

Books

Journals

Indexed Publications

Government documents

Electronic Sources

Step Three

Analyzing & Checking the Relevance

Determining Relevance

1. Topic Relevance
2. Individual and site Relevance
3. Problem Relevance
4. Accessibility Relevance

If you answered **YES** to these questions, the literature is relevant!

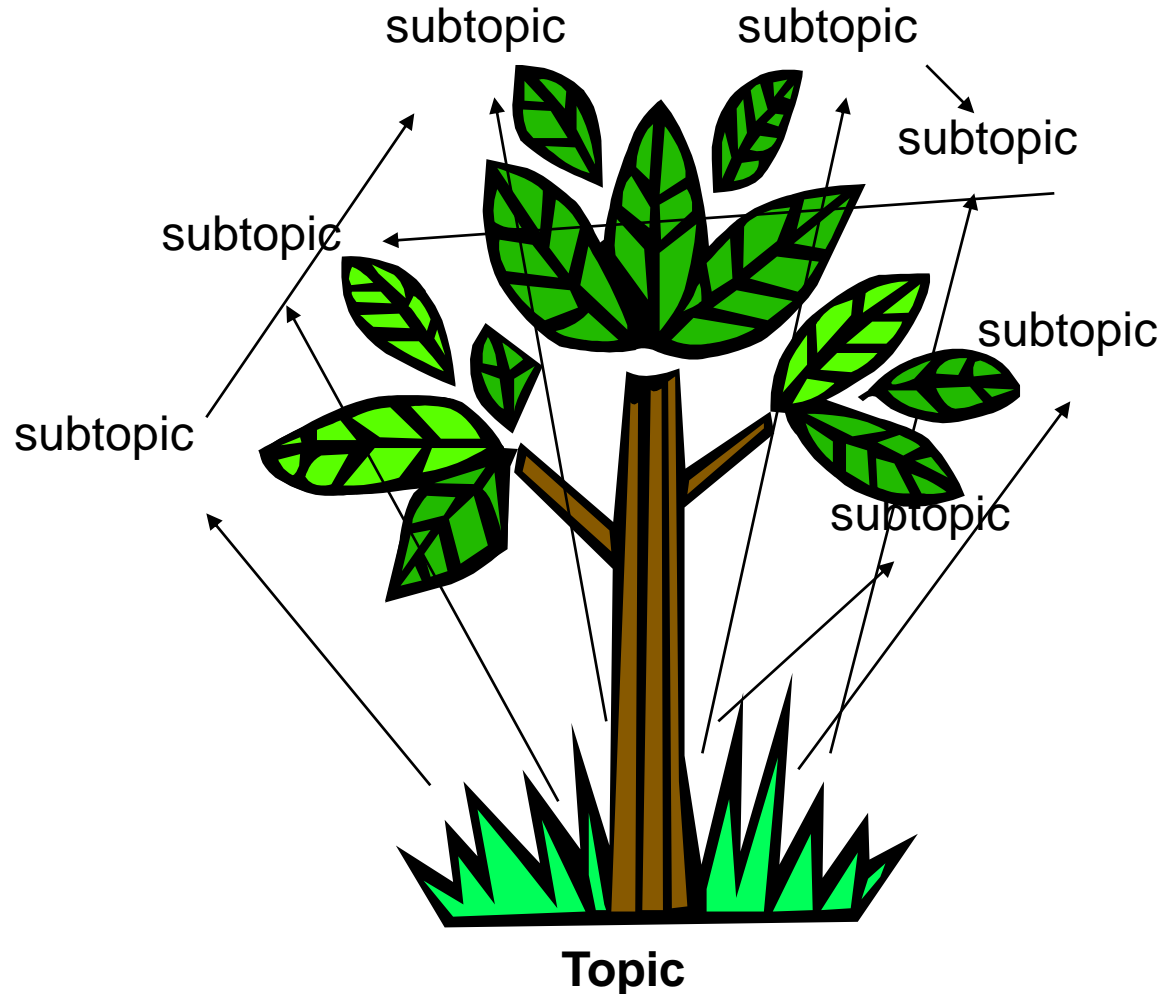
Step Four:

Organizing the Literature

Copying & Filing

Making Literature Map

Organizing the Literature Search: *the Tree Diagram*



Literature Search and
review on your topic

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graph TD; A[Literature Search and review on your topic] --> B[What are the key sources?]; A --> C[What are the key theories concepts and ideas?]; A --> D[What are the epistemological and ontological grounds for the discipline?]; A --> E[What are the main questions and problems that have been addressed?]; A --> F[How is knowledge on the topic structured and organized?]; A --> G[How have approaches to these questions increased our understanding and knowledge?]; A --> H[What are the origins and definitions of the topic?]; A --> I[What are the political standpoints?]; A --> J[What are the major issues and debates about the topic?];
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What are the key sources?

What are the key theories concepts and ideas?

What are the epistemological and ontological grounds for the discipline?

What are the major issues and debates about the topic?

What are the political standpoints?

What are the origins and definitions of the topic?

What are the main questions and problems that have been addressed?

How is knowledge on the topic structured and organized?

How have approaches to these questions increased our understanding and knowledge?

Step Five

Writing the Literature Review

Abstracting:

Key element of collected related literature is to summarize .

Style Manual:

APA style & format

Researcher should use *Some Signal Verbs* –

Author is neutral	Author implies	Author argues	Author disagrees	Author agrees
comments	analyzes	contends	disparages	admits
describes	assesses	defends	bemoans	concedes
illustrates	concludes	holds	complains	concurs
notes	finds	maintains	deplores	grants
observes	predicts	insists	laments	agrees
points out	speculates	disputes	warns	states

Citation styles

Using APA-Style Documentation: In-text citations

- Name the **author** (last name only) and provide the **date** as you summarize:

Example:

Smith (2005) argued that x was always true, while **Jones (2007)** has demonstrated through his research that it is not.

- To add a reference to an additional text, cite the primary author and then give your reader a cue: (**Clark**, 2007; see also **Diepenbrock**, 2008).

Points To Be Considered

- **Be specific & be succinct:** Briefly state specific findings listed in an article, specific methodologies used in a study, or other important points. Literature reviews are not the place for long quotes or in-depth analysis of each point.
- **Be selective:** Researcher should narrow down a lot of information into a small space for literature review. Just the most important points (i.e. those most relevant to the review's focus) must be mentioned in each work of review.
- **Focus of current topics:** Researcher needs to analyse points such as if it is a current article, & if not, how old it is: has its claims, evidence, or arguments been superseded by more recent work; if it is not current, then if it is important for historical background ; etc

Points To Be Considered

□ **Ensure evidence for claims:** Researcher should focus on what support is given for claims made in literature. What evidence & what type (experimental, statistical, anecdotal, etc.) of evidences are offered? Is the evidence relevant & sufficient? What arguments are given? What assumptions are made?

□ **Focus on sources of evidences:** Researchers should ensure the reliability of the sources of the evidence or other information – if they are from author's own experiments, surveys, historical records, government documents, etc. He should check how reliable those sources are.

Points To Be Considered

- **Account of contrary evidences:** Does the author take into account contrary or conflicting evidence & arguments? How does the author address disagreements with other researchers?
- **Reference citation:** Any references cited in the literature review must be included in the bibliography. The common practice is that the reviewer does not list references in the bibliography that are not directly cited in the literature review or elsewhere in the paper /thesis.
- **Avoid abbreviations:** Avoid technical terms, jargons & abbreviations.

Points To Be Considered

- **Simple & accurate sentence structure:** A researcher should use simple sentences & must avoid errors of grammar & punctuation.
- **Referring original source:** The reviewer should focus on citing the material that originates with each reference. This may require a careful reading of the reference. If the reference author refers to another source whose ideas are relevant or interesting, it is better to track & use that original reference.

The Writing Process

In the **conclusion**, the researcher should:

- Summarize major contributions of significant studies and articles to the body of knowledge under review, maintaining the focus established in the introduction.
- Evaluate the current "state of the art" pointing out major methodological flaws or gaps in research, inconsistencies in theory and findings, and areas or issues pertinent to future study.
- Conclude by providing some insight into the relationship between the central topic of the literature review and a larger area of study (rationale).



THANK
YOU