Functions of literature review

- Provide theoretical background of study
  - Theory – an interrelated concepts, definitions and proposition that gives a systematic view of specifying relations among the variables to explain and predict a phenomena.
- Helps to establish links between your study proposal and what has been studied
- Show how your finding have contributed to the existing body of knowledge
Specific function of literature review in your study

- Bring clarity and focus to research problem
- Improve your research methodology
- Broaden your knowledge base in your research area
- Contextualize your finding –
  - how your finding fit to the existing body of knowledge
  - Your study contribution to the field/practice

5 steps in conducting Literature Review

- Step 1 - Identify key terms
  - Write a working title (this can be revised)
    - Select your key-words
  - Pose general research question
  - Use words reported by authors in the literature

- Step 2 - Locate the literature (50 research reports – Creswell 2003)
  - Use both Primary & Secondary sources
    - Primary sources (Empirical) – literatures reported by individual who actually conduct the research
    - Secondary sources (Review papers) – literature that summarizes primary source. Ex: A Meta-Analysis study
  - Different types of literatures: Journals, books, newspaper, proceedings, encyclopedia, dictionary
  - Online database: Ebscohost, Sage, ScienceDirect, Proquest, Springerlink, Emerald, ebooks, Sage, Wiley
Step 3 - Critically evaluate & select the literature
- Is it good, accurate source? Refereed journals, non-refereed journals, books.

Step 4 - Organize the literature
- Xerox, Download, Filing
- Take note, abstracting studies
- Literature Map

Priority for Resources in the Literature
- Journal articles – easiest to locate, more recent findings & reviews
- Books
- Conference proceedings
Use of Literature in Thesis/Dissertation

- **Chapter 1 – Introduction**
  - Research problem
  - Study significance
  - Definition of terms

- **Chapter 2 – Literature Review** (see suggested model by Creswell 2003)

- **Chapter 3 – Methodology**
  - Sampling technique – justifying your technique, sample size chosen
  - Instrument development
  - Data collection strategy

- **Chapter 4 – Result**
  - No literature review

- **Chapter 5 – Discussion and conclusion**
  - Discuss/Explain how your finding compared to theory/past research
  - Discuss the contribution of your study to the body of knowledge in your area

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A Model for Writing the Literature Review (Creswell 2003)

- **Introduction**

- **Topic 1 – review about the independent variable**
  - Concepts, definitions,
  - Importance of studying this variable
  - operational definitions

- **Topic 2 – review about the dependent variable**
  - Concepts, definitions
  - Importance of studying this variable
  - operational definitions

- **Topic 3 – Review the relationship between the independent variable and dependent variable**
  - Theory explaining the relationship between the IV and DV
  - Past research examining the relationship between the IV and DV
    - Highlight the most important studies
    - Limitation of these studies that your study will address
Use of Literature in Journal Article

- **Introduction** – provide background information of the study
  - Research problem
  - Study significance
- **Literature Review** (see suggested model by Creswell 2003)
- **Methodology**
  - Sampling technique – justifying your technique, sample size chosen
  - Instrument development
- **Result**
  - No literature review
- **Discussion and conclusion**
  - Discuss/Explain how your finding compared to theory/past research
  - Discuss the contribution of your study to the body of knowledge in your area

Writing your citations: In-Text and End of Text

- **Why do you have to cite your reference?**
  - to credit the work of the scholars/researchers,
  - enable readers to find the information/article referred by the author,
  - add credibility to your argument.
- **Ethics** - avoid plagiarism
- **Types of citations:**
  - **In-text citation**: Citation placed within sentences and paragraphs in text. Clearly show about what information are being paraphrased or quoted and whose information did you use.
    - **Direct citation**
      - Middlemiss (2011) has distinguished between psychological contract and legal employment contract
    - **Indirect citation**
      - Researchers have utilized the concept of the psychological contract in a variety of ways (Roehling, 1997) but it is important to ......
- **More examples**
  - **End of Text citation** – the List of References written at the end of an article
End of text reference

References

Guides to write a Literature Review

- [http://www.emeraldinsight.com/authors/guides/write/literature.htm?part=1](http://www.emeraldinsight.com/authors/guides/write/literature.htm?part=1)
- USM lecture note
- Avoiding plagiarism