



The Literature Review

Purpose of the Literature Review

The purpose is to:

Demonstrate to the community of scholars that you have a solid understanding of the literature.

Survey the current state of knowledge in the field in a way that allows you to put your own research into perspective.

Purpose of the Literature Review

Remember that you are standing on the shoulder of giants:

- what has already been done?
- what is the state of the argument?
- where are the gaps?

Show that there is a gap and a need for your specific research.

Purpose of the Literature review

- ▶ The literature review should lead logically to the research question and/or hypothesis.
- ▶ The research gap justifies and helps articulate the research question and/or hypothesis.
- ▶ The literature review can also form the foundation of the methodology.

Structure and Content of the Literature Review

- ▶ The literature review should have an introduction, subsections, possibly a summary table and a conclusion that introduces the research question and/or hypothesis.
- ▶ Use the subsections to provide insights into the literature.
- ▶ It should provide a description, summary and critical evaluation of existing literature that is relevant to the topic.
- ▶ Preferably, it should find a new way of interpreting past research

Structure and Content of the Literature Review

In addition to providing the essence of each publication's contribution, you should outline how it relates to the others under consideration.

Include publications that conflict with others.

Be up to date, but do not forget the seminal studies.

How to Write the Literature Review

Three Steps

1.1 Find the relevant literature

Google Scholar scrubbing, powerful, shows citation count, credibility of content, download as many relevant articles as possible and sift through it.

How to Write the Literature Review

1.2 University library and data bases.

Make your list of all relevant journals, use a database which allows you to search discipline specific topics such as Econ Lit for Economics.

1.3 Snowballing from the reference lists of journal articles. Find a few core articles and then look through the references cited there, likely to be highly relevant but keep an eye on the age of the articles.

How to Write the Literature Review

2. Log, Catalogue and Synthesise

This is an iterative approach. Log the references in a reference information management software system.

Mendeley, Zotero, Endnote Link below is for windows.

Mendeley <https://www.mendeley.com/download-desktop-new/>

Alternatively set up an excel spreadsheet.

This could include column headings for Author, Year Journal volume , title, abstract and quotes or notable features.

How to Write the Literature Review

Study authors	Year	Title	Type of study	Additional description	Key findings in nursing leadership and competencies	Recommendations/ conclusions
Bahrami, Aliakbari, & Aein	2014	Iranian nurses' perception of essential competences in disaster response: A qualitative study	Qualitative: Phenomenology	35 nurses from various provinces and working background interviewed from Iran; each had prior experience working in a disaster.	Five themes were identified with corresponding categories: disaster scene coordination, management of human and other resources, professional ethics in disaster, adherence to law in disaster, knowledge about duties and organization hierarchy, unity in command, physical ability, self-management, meta competence critical thinking ability, communication skills, specific knowledge and applying knowledge. Subcategories identified were determined by interviewees as competencies for nursing.	This study examined the competencies required for nurses to provide better care in disaster situations. According to the findings, technical, management, ethical and personal abilities are necessary for all nurses who are providing care. Considering the importance of these competencies in disastrous situations, it seems necessary to put these trainings in academic curriculums and in nurses' service trainings.
Blanke, & McGrady	2011	From hot ashes to a cool recovery: Reducing risk by acting on business continuity and disaster recovery lessons learned	Qualitative: Case study	Continuing operations post-fire at a Visiting Nurses Association building.	Critical leadership and clear communication across all stakeholders is important. Ongoing and regularly scheduled leadership communication is also very important. Senior leadership was onsite to immediately initiate the business continuity and disaster response plan.	To create a CEO and senior management succession plan in the event that they are not onsite or not available.
Clukey	2010	Transformative experience for Hurricanes Katrina and Rita disaster volunteers	Qualitative: Phenomenology	8 self-selected volunteer informants individually interviewed; thematic analysis used.	The prominent finding was that volunteering in response to these natural disasters was a transformative experience for the relief workers. Three thematic categories emerged as common findings; these were: emotional	The author recommends that using federal guidelines and university-based programs could help develop, implement and evaluate educational programs for their proficiency in developing skilled relief

How to Write the Literature Review.

- ▶ Annotated Bibliography, a critical review of the literature.
- ▶ You can find too many papers, go for all important papers and not every paper written on the topic.

How to Write the Literature Review

▶ 3. Digest and Synthesise

What light does the research throw on my question

Who is agreeing with whom and disagreeing with whom and about what?

What are the inconsistencies and other shortcomings.

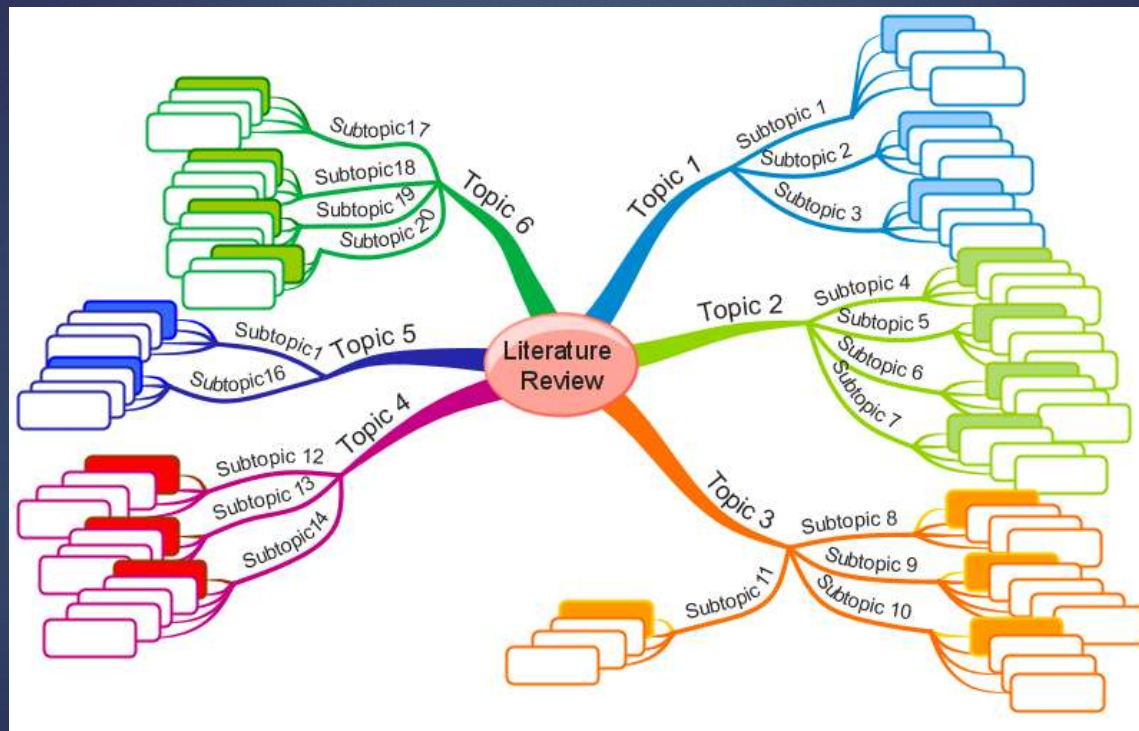
What is the narrative, try not to silo a paper but link it to others.

Zoom in and zoom out and how does it all fit together,

Engage in a mind mapping exercise

Don't rush into writing it, Digest!

How to Write the Literature Review



How to Write the Literature Review

- ▶ Structural Options

Chronological, in date order or thematically

Clear narrative, not number of articles

Perfection is not the objective

Ask a friend to explain it back to you.