



Original Article

Navigating the Scholarly Seas: A Step-By-Step Approach for Writing a Literature Review

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Abstract

The research constructed on literature review set up a comprehensive assessment of existing knowledge approaching a particular topic. The literature review signifies an essential factor of academic research effort for any scholarly scrutiny. The required skills involve various competencies which include mastering topic definition alongside research and retrieval of literature and material analysis alongside report writing under the time constraints. The process requires students to establish research subject matters and learn database search methods combined with analytical synthesis skills for academic work. Research must develop the ability to examine the material alongside excellent writing and reporting skills while working under time constraints. A quality literature review has a suitable research question, appropriate theoretical background as well as preferred research methodology. It is a base for research in most of academic area. A deeper literature review not only summarise the sources but also analyse and evaluates to provide thorough knowledge on the particular subject. The goal of an extensive literature review lies in both providing synthesis of sources and conducting analysis and evaluation to deliver comprehensive understanding of the subjects.

The process of conducting a literature review, however, is difficult for many researchers because it demands careful navigating through a wide sea of scholarly papers. This article offers a detailed process to assist researchers in creating a successful literature review.

Key words: Scholarly, Literature review, Step-by-step approach, Body of Knowledge

Introduction

A literature review can broadly be described as a more or less systematic way of collecting and synthesizing previous research (Baumeister & Leary, 1997; Tranfield, Denyer, & Smart, 2003). Literature reviews cater as a ready reckoner to a specific topic. It is a vital component of the research process because it acts as a compass to lead researchers through the sea of existing knowledge on a given subject. It gives a thorough review of the academic works pertinent to the research subject, allowing researchers to place their own study within the context of a larger body of knowledge. But traversing this large ocean of literature can be a complex endeavor, especially for people who are new to academic writing or are not aware with the traces of doing a literature review.

Objectives of the Study:

1. To understand the importance for writing Literature Review
2. To suggest a clear and practical step-by-step approach for researchers to navigate the process of writing a literature review.

Research Methodology:

Secondary data used in the form of Books, Journals, Articles, Magazines & Websites for research purpose.

Meaning of Literature Review

The overview of significant literature regarding a specific area or subject makes up a literature review. The literature review collects essential information from various sources including key authors' names and their statements and theories along with hypotheses descriptions and raised issues and applicable research methods. The study serves as a reporting document for other source findings instead of acting as original primary research (Emerald Group Publishing, n.d.).

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- A change in interpretive perspective can apply old material in a fresh manner while integrating previously established interpretations with emerging ones.
- Study the academic background of the subjects using critical research debates.
- State the most critical findings from the sources for the reader's benefits when such evaluation is necessary.

Or

- Researchers usually reveal identified gaps from previous studies about an issue during the conclusion of their literature review.

Why you should write a review of literature:

All research fields and all research endeavors must take into account prior, relevant literature. Regardless of the subject, when reading an article, the author usually starts by outlining prior studies in order to map and evaluate the research area, justify the study's purpose, and support the research question and hypotheses. A literature review proves helpful for tracking subject evolution because it functions as the starting point for developing novel conceptual models and theories. The selection of adequate research methods depends on the goals of the literature review because strong emphasis should be placed on this aspect.

Here are some causes for writing a literature review:

Summarizes Existing Knowledge: It combines current research findings, highlighting what is already known about a topic. It offers a complete overview of the existing body of work on a particular topic, showing what researchers have already searched. This helps to understand the existing state of knowledge in the research area.

Identifies Gaps: By revealing areas with limited or no research, it throws light on unanswered questions. This can lead to new questions or areas that need further exploration, helping to cultivate your own research objectives.

Establishes Context: By linking prior work, it sets the background for new studies and highlights their relevance. It positions the work within the ongoing discussions in the field and demonstrates how this study contributes to upgrading knowledge.

Prevents Duplication: Helps ensure efforts are directed toward novel contributions, avoiding redundant research. A thorough literature review ensures that there is not duplicating research that has already been done. By reviewing prior work, it is being ensured that the study offers new insights, rather than repeating already established findings.

Supports Methodology: Gives a foundation for justifying selected research methods, citing precedents. It helps to identify suitable methods, instruments, or approaches that have been impactful in previous studies, ensuring that your methods are wide-ranging.

Builds Credibility: Demonstrates familiarity with the field and validates the study's foundation.

Frames Research Questions: Refines and focuses objectives based on insights from prior research. It provides a framework for developing focused, meaningful, and relevant questions that will direct further investigation.

Steps in the Literature Review Process:

The selection of a study topic and the articulation of a precise research question are the **first steps** in this process. Researchers can find the appropriate ideas and keywords that will lead their search for relevant material by using a clearly defined research topic. Researchers might start a systematic search for scholarly publications once they have a convincing research subject in mind.

In order to obtain a wide variety of content, the **second phase** implies doing a thorough search of numerous databases, libraries, and academic resources. This process makes sure that researchers are thorough in their search for pertinent studies, books, articles, magazines and research articles that can advance their knowledge of the subject at hand. A complete body of literature caters as the basis for a thoughtful literature review.

The **third step** is on reviewing and analysing the selected sources critically after the literature has been collected. Researchers must assess each piece of work for quality, significance, and trustworthiness, taking into account things like the author's experience, the standing of the journal, and the methodology used. This critical assessment enables researchers to spot gaps, inconsistencies, and trends in the body of existing information, leading to a deeper understanding of the subject.

The **fourth phase** consists of grouping the chosen material according to major themes and subtopics that come to light during the critical assessment. Researchers can build linkages between many studies and form a clear narrative that blends the body of knowledge by categorizing and developing a concrete framework. The way the literature is organized prepares the ground for what comes next.

The information collected from the literature is synthesized by researchers in the **fifth phase** to provide a thorough and impartial review. They highlight areas of agreement and disagreement while overviewing the major conclusions, justifications, and methodology used in the examined studies. They also point out holes and unanswered queries in the literature, suggesting areas for further investigation.

The **sixth and last step** focuses on the writing itself. Scholarly integrity, clarity, and consistency are required when researchers deliver their literature reviews. They format their review using the proper citation style, keeping the reader interested while showcasing their in-depth knowledge of the subject. A well-written literature review not only demonstrates the researcher's subject-matter expertise but also adds to their area of specialization.

Researchers can successfully track the scholarly oceans of literature by using this step-by-step process to create a systematic and insightful literature review. The advice offered in this article seeks to explain the literature review writing process, giving researchers the skills and information required to make a significant contribution to their subject of research.

Conclusion:

This article provides a wide-ranging and practical guide for researchers embarking on the journey of writing a literature review. By following the step-by-step approach outlined in this resource, researchers can navigate the complex seas of scholarly literature with confidence and competence.

The objectives of the study are attained through the systematic and structured process presented in this paper. Ultimately, "Navigating the Scholarly Seas: A Step-by-Step Approach to Writing a Literature Review" emphasizes the significance of a well-executed literature review and its role in advancing knowledge and contributing to the scholarly community. By providing researchers with a comprehensive roadmap and practical guidance, this resource equips them with the necessary tools to navigate the scholarly seas and produce a robust and insightful literature review.

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Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

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