



Original Article

Understanding the Landscape for Review of Literature

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Abstract

The review of literature is very much essential as it helps researchers understand the required knowledge on a specific area or topic. The review of literature always plays an important role in identifying the research gaps in specific fields, emphasis on the importance of a topic, and give grounds for the significance of specific study. The purpose of a literature review is to gain the knowledge of the existing research areas of study with the help of secondary data, analyse the information and to present that knowledge in the form of a report writing. The word literature means the source of information. Research and researcher's perspectives are different, as their research problems and problem statements are different. But it is important for every researcher to know a definite research process flowchart to work effectively and efficiently for addressing research problem effectively.

Research is continuous process, searching again and again for achieving accurate results will be possible only when the researcher have a strong study of literature review. Literature review develops the 'knowledge base' of researcher. The literature review will give the data about the research which has been already conducted on the specific areas or topics. The literature review can not be repeated unless there is change in demographics, new technical development in that area and change in testing tools. The literature review synthesizes the information from multiple resources to address the research problem.

Keywords: Research purpose, research process, elements of literature review

Introduction

As the foundation of the research process, the literature review is an essential part of any research effort. It comprises a methodical examination and critical evaluation of the contain of information, theories, and research that are relevant to a certain research area or topic. A literature review's introduction is crucial because it sets the stage for the rest of the review, provides a summary of the study topic, states the goals and purpose of the review, and highlights its significance in relation to the larger academic as well as practical community in the specific research area.

Presenting the study issue and highlighting its importance in the field are the first steps in the introduction. It justifies the necessity of the review and gives readers the necessary background knowledge to become acquainted with the topic. For the literature review, the abstracting and indexing journals and published or unpublished bibliographies are the first place to go to. Academic journals, conference proceedings, government reports, books etc., must be analysed depending on the nature of the problem. The process is connecting and interlinked, means one source will lead to another. For the good conduct of review of literature well established libraries will be one of the best tools for researcher.

Objectives of study:

1. To understand the purpose and importance of literature review for the researcher.
2. To understand the research process flowchart systematically.
3. To study in detail the key elements of Review of Literature while doing research.

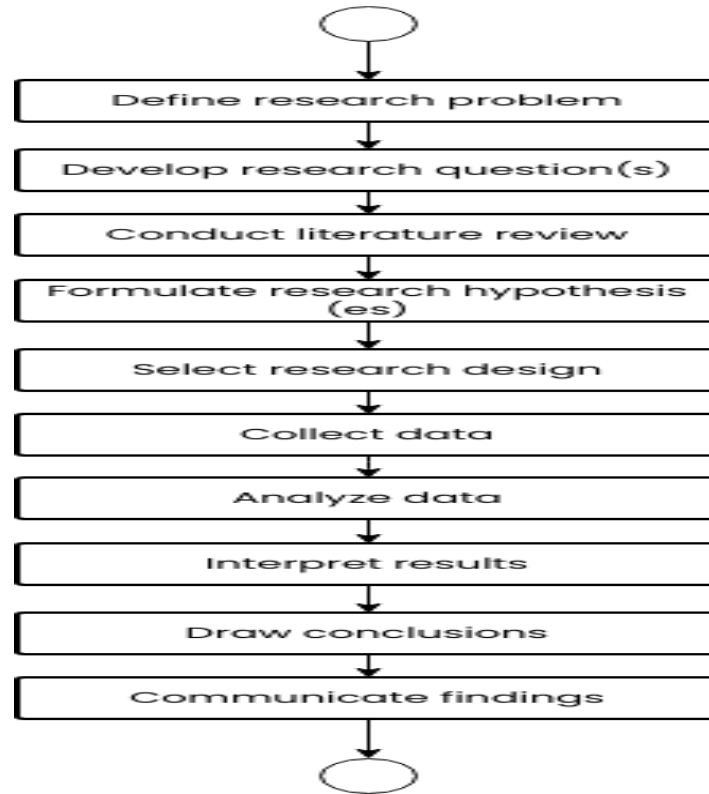
Research Process Flowchart

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Research Process:

The research process is a systematic approach to exploring a question, solving a problem, or uncovering new knowledge. It begins with identifying a clear objective or problem to address. This step involves defining the purpose of the research and understanding its scope. Once the objective is clear, a review of existing literature is conducted to gather insights from previous studies, identify gaps, and refine the research focus.

The researcher formulates a hypothesis or specific research questions. This serves as the foundation for the study, guiding the methodology. The methodology outlines how the research will be conducted, including the data collection methods (such as surveys, experiments, or interviews) and the sampling strategy. This stage ensures the research is well-structured and reliable.

Data collection follows, where information is gathered systematically based on the chosen methods. The collected data is then analysed using statistical or thematic techniques to identify patterns, relationships, or insights. These findings are interpreted in the context of the research questions or hypothesis to draw meaningful conclusions. Finally, the results are compiled into a report or presentation, highlighting the key findings, their implications, and recommendations. The process concludes with a review of the study, noting its limitations and areas for future research.

Key elements of review of literature for the researcher:

1. Introduction:

It is very necessary for researcher to take an overview of the research area or the topic of study. The 360-degree approach has to be adopted by researcher while defining research problem and for collecting information from multiple resources. While doing literature review it is very important to state the broad overview of the information related to the research area and clarifying particular period of time if required. The purpose, objectives and scope of the research has to be defined by the researcher while conducting review of literature.

2. Define Strategy

The literature review must come with standard outline for inclusion and exclusion criteria for the selection of sources. Inclusion criteria may include research design, time frame, population, specific topics, reviewed articles, journals etc, while exclusion criteria may include irrelevant studies, outdated topics, non-reviewed journals, articles etc. Choose appropriate database e.g. for multidisciplinary academic research use Web of Science, SCOPUS, Google Scholar, Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ), PubMed, Government and institutional reports, grey literature, relevant books etc.

3. Structural clarity in organising literature:

A well-structured literature review help researcher and readers to understand the connections between different studies related to the research area. Synthesize the information from each resource and it has to be in a logical flowchart. Use of headings and sub headings wherever needed to organise the content in systematic manner. Structural clarity is very much essential for the well-planned narrative.

4. Critical analysis and synthesis:

For the effective results, a critical analysis of strengths, Weaknesses, challenges, research gaps and limitations of the information from the multiple resources is necessary. Along with that certain evaluating tools and techniques, methodologies, previous findings, conclusions have to be critically analysed by researcher. Constructive concrete and accurate pool of information is the outcome of critical analysis which will enhance the quality of research. Critical analysis can identify the research gap and inconsistencies which indicates further scope of research in specific field. Synthesis is important in research as it helps researcher to understand and analyse the research problem effectively by gathering the information from different sources.

5. Conclusion and References:

Conclusion and References are the most integral part of literature review. Researcher can recommend the areas of scope of further studies by specifying certain gaps or loopholes in studies. Researcher can mention the importance of studies and its applicability or the benefits to the different users. Research conclusion can give different perspective to readers for further studies in the specific research areas. Conclusion includes summarizing the important points and findings of literature review. To avoid plagiarism, it is extremely important for the researcher to give a credit to other researcher and or source of information. Giving appropriate references is an ethical way of expression of a researcher while publishing his or her research work. Every researcher has site sources accurately in the form of footnotes, bibliography and or reference list.

Conclusion:

The review of literature is a critical and key component of the research process that provides a detail understanding of existing knowledge on a particular area or topic. A systematic and rigorous analysis of literature review can give a clear understanding of scope of research work. The accurate literature review helps researchers to achieve defined success in the research journey.

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Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

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