

IDEES – International Multidisciplinary Research Journal

(Peer Reviewed)

Research Paper on

IMPORTANCE OF LITERATURE REVIEW: AS A PRIOR LADDER OF RESEARCH

BY

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ABSTRACT

Doing a careful and thorough literature review is essential when write about research at any level. It is basic homework that is assumed to have been done vigilantly, and a given fact in all researches. By providing one usually offered in an introduction before reach thesis statement, that telling to reader that; have not neglected the basics of research.

It not only surveys what research has been done in the past on such topic, but it also appraises, encapsulates, compares and contrasts, and correlates various scholarly books, research articles, and other relevant sources that are directly related to current research. Given the fundamental nature of providing one, the research paper will be not considered seriously; if it is lacking of literature reviews at the beginning of paper.

INTRODUCTION

When starting from scratch, reviewing the literature can require a massive amount of work. That is why researchers who have spent their career working on a certain research issue are in a perfect position to review that literature. Some graduate schools are now offering courses in reviewing the literature, given that most research students start their project by producing an overview of what has already been done on their research issue. Reviewing the literature requires the ability to juggle multiple tasks, from finding and evaluating relevant material to synthesizing information from various sources, from critical thinking to paraphrasing, evaluating, and citation skills.

What is a Literature Review?

A literature review is a critical analysis of the literature, or research, related to a specific topic or research question. In literature review, authors are organizing, integrating and critically evaluating already published material in an attempt to consider the progress of research toward clarifying a certain problem (American Psychological Association [APA], 2009). By the time you have decided to write a literature review on the topic of your interest, you have probably already acquired some knowledge in the area. Writing a good literature review, however, requires more than just merely listing the main theoretical approaches to the problem and the research they have generated. It has to review the topic in a critical, unbiased and holistic way, which makes connections between the different lines of research, points out any inconsistencies and suggests directions for further research. Here's way of describing main tasks of literature review:

- Summarises prior research and says how the project is linked to it;
- Demonstrates a familiarity with a body of knowledge and establishes the credibility of the work;
- Integrates and summarises what is known about a subject;
- Demonstrates that you have learnt from others and that your research is a starting point for new ideas.

Objectives of Literature Review:

- It surveys the literature in your chosen area of study
- It synthesizes the information in that literature into a summary
- It critically analyses the information gathered by identifying gaps in current knowledge; by showing limitations of theories and points of view; and by formulating areas for further research and reviewing areas of controversy
- It presents the literature in an organized way

A literature review shows the readers that you have an in-depth grasp of the subject; and that you understand where your own research fits into and adds to an existing body of agreed knowledge.

Needs of Literature Review:

The first step of any research project is to review the field. So let's think about surveying, synthesizing, critically analyzing and presenting in more detail. A literature review does the following.

- Identifies gaps in current knowledge.
- Avoids reinventing the wheel – i.e. it saves you wasting time researching something that's already been done.
- Allows you to show that you are building on a foundation of existing knowledge and ideas – i.e. carrying on from where others have already reached.

- Identifies other people working in the same field. Knowing who's already working in your area and getting in touch with them can be an invaluable source of knowledge and support.
- Demonstrates the depth of your knowledge about your research.
- Identifies the important works in your area and shows that you've read them.
- Provides an intellectual context for your own work, and enables you to position your project in relation to others in the field.
- Identifies opposing views.
- Puts your own work in perspective – are you doing something completely new, revisiting an old controversy in the light of new evidence, etc.
- Demonstrates your research skills – i.e. you not only know about work in your area, you also know how to access it.
- Identifies information and ideas that may be relevant to your project.
- Identifies methods that may be relevant to your project.

Here are some things to bear in mind when researching and writing literature review:

- It is not a descriptive list.
- It is not a book by book and article by article summary.
- It is not a survey of every single thing that's ever been written about your topic.
- It must be defined by a guiding concept i.e. essay question, research project or objective.
- It must tell the reader what knowledge and ideas have been established and agreed in your area and outline their strengths and weaknesses.

Important points to be considered at the time of writing Literature Review:

- 1. Define a topic and audience:** How to choose which topic to review? The topic must at least be; interesting to researcher (ideally, researcher should have come across a series of recent papers related to your line of work that call for a critical summary), an important aspect of the field (so that many readers will be interested in the review and there will be enough material to write it), and a well-defined issue (otherwise researcher could potentially include thousands of publications, which would make the review unhelpful).
- 2. Search and Research the literature:** The chances are high that someone will already have published a literature review, if not exactly on the issue that are planning to tackle, at least on a related topic. If there are already a few or several reviews of the literature on the issue, but it is advisable is not to give up, but to carry on with own literature review.
- 3. Take notes while reading:** If you read the papers first, and only afterwards start writing the review, you will need a very good memory to remember who wrote what, and what your impressions and associations were while reading each single paper. It is important that; while reading, to start writing down interesting pieces of information, insights about how to organize the review, and thoughts on what to write. This way, by the time you have read the literature you selected, you will already have a rough draft of the review.

4. **Select the type of review, wish to write:** there are many types are there to write literature review like; Mini or Full review, descriptive or integrative reviews, narrative and systematic reviews, and many more. Out of various types; the choice between different review types will have to be made on a case-by-case basis, depending not just on the nature of the material found and the preferences of the target journals, but also on the time available to write the review and the number of co-authors.
5. **Keep the review focused, but make it of broad interest:** Whether your plan is to write a mini- or a full review, it is good advice to keep it focused. Including material just for the sake of it can easily lead to reviews that are trying to do too many things at once. The need to keep a review focused can be problematic for interdisciplinary reviews, where the aim is to bridge the gap between fields.
6. **Be critical and consistent:** Reviewing the literature is not stamp collecting. A good review does not just summarize the literature, but discusses it critically, identifies methodological problems, and points out research gaps. After having read a review of the literature, a reader should have a rough idea of: The major achievements in the reviewed field, the main areas of debate, and the outstanding research questions.
7. **Find a logical structure:** A good review has a number of telling features: it is worth the reader's time, timely, systematic, well written, focused, and critical. It also needs a good structure. With reviews, the usual subdivision of research papers into introduction, methods, results, and discussion does not work or is rarely used.
8. **Make use of feedback:** Feedback is vital to writing a good review, and should be sought from a variety of colleagues, so as to obtain a diversity of views on the draft. This may lead in some cases to conflicting views on the merits of the paper, and on how to improve it, but such a situation is better than the absence of feedback.
9. **Include own relevant Research, but it must be objective:** In general, a review of the literature should neither be a public relations brochure nor an exercise in competitive self-denial. If a reviewer is up to the job of producing a well-organized and methodical review, which flows well and provides a service to the readership, then it should be possible to be objective in reviewing one's own relevant findings.
10. **Be up-to-date, but don't forget older studies:** today's reviews of the literature need awareness not just of the overall direction and achievements of a field of inquiry, but also of the latest studies, so as not to become out-of-date before they have been published. Ideally, a literature review should not identify as a major research gap an issue that has just been addressed in a series of papers in press.

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