

## 1: Write Online: Literature Review Writing Guide - Parts of a Literature Review

*A literature review will help you: Identify seminal works and authors in your topic area (i.e. the really important ones!) Evaluate the current state of research in your field and identify trends.*

**Bibliography Definition** A literature review surveys books, scholarly articles, and any other sources relevant to a particular issue, area of research, or theory, and by so doing, provides a description, summary, and critical evaluation of these works in relation to the research problem being investigated. Literature reviews are designed to provide an overview of sources you have explored while researching a particular topic and to demonstrate to your readers how your research fits within a larger field of study. Conducting Research Literature Reviews: From the Internet to Paper. Importance of a Good Literature Review A literature review may consist of simply a summary of key sources, but in the social sciences, a literature review usually has an organizational pattern and combines both summary and synthesis, often within specific conceptual categories. A summary is a recap of the important information of the source, but a synthesis is a re-organization, or a reshuffling, of that information in a way that informs how you are planning to investigate a research problem. The analytical features of a literature review might: Give a new interpretation of old material or combine new with old interpretations, Trace the intellectual progression of the field, including major debates, Depending on the situation, evaluate the sources and advise the reader on the most pertinent or relevant research, or Usually in the conclusion of a literature review, identify where gaps exist in how a problem has been researched to date. The purpose of a literature review is to: Place each work in the context of its contribution to understanding the research problem being studied. Describe the relationship of each work to the others under consideration. Identify new ways to interpret prior research. Reveal any gaps that exist in the literature. Resolve conflicts amongst seemingly contradictory previous studies. Identify areas of prior scholarship to prevent duplication of effort. Point the way in fulfilling a need for additional research. Locate your own research within the context of existing literature [very important]. Sage, ; Hart, Chris. Doing a Literature Review: Releasing the Social Science Research Imagination. Sage Publications, ; Jesson, Jill. Doing Your Literature Review: Traditional and Systematic Techniques. Political Science and Politics 39 January A Step-by-Step Guide for Students. Types of Literature Reviews It is important to think of knowledge in a given field as consisting of three layers. First, there are the primary studies that researchers conduct and publish. Second are the reviews of those studies that summarize and offer new interpretations built from and often extending beyond the primary studies. Third, there are the perceptions, conclusions, opinion, and interpretations that are shared informally that become part of the lore of field. In composing a literature review, it is important to note that it is often this third layer of knowledge that is cited as "true" even though it often has only a loose relationship to the primary studies and secondary literature reviews. Given this, while literature reviews are designed to provide an overview and synthesis of pertinent sources you have explored, there are a number of approaches you could adopt depending upon the type of analysis underpinning your study. Types of Literature Reviews Argumentative Review This form examines literature selectively in order to support or refute an argument, deeply imbedded assumption, or philosophical problem already established in the literature. The purpose is to develop a body of literature that establishes a contrarian viewpoint. Given the value-laden nature of some social science research [e. However, note that they can also introduce problems of bias when they are used to make summary claims of the sort found in systematic reviews [see below]. Integrative Review Considered a form of research that reviews, critiques, and synthesizes representative literature on a topic in an integrated way such that new frameworks and perspectives on the topic are generated. The body of literature includes all studies that address related or identical hypotheses or research problems. A well-done integrative review meets the same standards as primary research in regard to clarity, rigor, and replication. This is the most common form of review in the social sciences. Historical Review Few things rest in isolation from historical precedent. Historical literature reviews focus on examining research throughout a period of time, often starting with the first time an issue, concept, theory, phenomena emerged in the literature, then tracing its evolution within the scholarship of a discipline. The purpose is to place research

in a historical context to show familiarity with state-of-the-art developments and to identify the likely directions for future research. Methodological Review A review does not always focus on what someone said [findings], but how they came about saying what they say [method of analysis]. Reviewing methods of analysis provides a framework of understanding at different levels [i. This approach helps highlight ethical issues which you should be aware of and consider as you go through your own study. Systematic Review This form consists of an overview of existing evidence pertinent to a clearly formulated research question, which uses pre-specified and standardized methods to identify and critically appraise relevant research, and to collect, report, and analyze data from the studies that are included in the review. The goal is to deliberately document, critically evaluate, and summarize scientifically all of the research about a clearly defined research problem. Typically it focuses on a very specific empirical question, often posed in a cause-and-effect form, such as "To what extent does A contribute to B? Theoretical Review The purpose of this form is to examine the corpus of theory that has accumulated in regard to an issue, concept, theory, phenomena. The theoretical literature review helps to establish what theories already exist, the relationships between them, to what degree the existing theories have been investigated, and to develop new hypotheses to be tested. Often this form is used to help establish a lack of appropriate theories or reveal that current theories are inadequate for explaining new or emerging research problems. The unit of analysis can focus on a theoretical concept or a whole theory or framework. Sage Publications, ; Kennedy, Mary M. Systematic Reviews in the Social Sciences: Blackwell Publishers, ; Torracro, Richard. Terms, Functions, and Distinctions. Systematic Approaches to a Successful Literature Review. Structure and Writing Style I. Thinking About Your Literature Review The structure of a literature review should include the following: An overview of the subject, issue, or theory under consideration, along with the objectives of the literature review, Division of works under review into themes or categories [e. The critical evaluation of each work should consider: Methodology -- were the techniques used to identify, gather, and analyze the data appropriate to addressing the research problem? Was the sample size appropriate? Were the results effectively interpreted and reported? Does the work ultimately contribute in any significant way to an understanding of the subject? Development of the Literature Review Four Stages 1. Problem formulation -- which topic or field is being examined and what are its component issues? Literature search -- finding materials relevant to the subject being explored. Data evaluation -- determining which literature makes a significant contribution to the understanding of the topic. Analysis and interpretation -- discussing the findings and conclusions of pertinent literature. Consider the following issues before writing the literature review: Clarify If your assignment is not very specific about what form your literature review should take, seek clarification from your professor by asking these questions: Roughly how many sources should I include? What types of sources should I review books, journal articles, websites; scholarly versus popular sources? Should I summarize, synthesize, or critique sources by discussing a common theme or issue? Should I evaluate the sources? Find Models Use the exercise of reviewing the literature to examine how authors in your discipline or area of interest have composed their literature review sections. Read them to get a sense of the types of themes you might want to look for in your own research or to identify ways to organize your final review. Narrow the Topic The narrower your topic, the easier it will be to limit the number of sources you need to read in order to obtain a good survey of relevant resources. A good strategy is to begin by searching the HOMER catalog for books about the topic and review the table of contents for chapters that focuses on specific issues. You can also review the indexes of books to find references to specific issues that can serve as the focus of your research. For example, a book surveying the history of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict may include a chapter on the role Egypt has played in mediating the conflict, or look in the index for the pages where Egypt is mentioned in the text. Consider Whether Your Sources are Current Some disciplines require that you use information that is as current as possible. This is particularly true in disciplines in medicine and the sciences where research conducted becomes obsolete very quickly as new discoveries are made. However, when writing a review in the social sciences, a survey of the history of the literature may be required. In other words, a complete understanding the research problem requires you to deliberately examine how knowledge and perspectives have changed over time. Sort through other current bibliographies or literature reviews in the field to get a sense of what your discipline expects.

You can also use this method to explore what is considered by scholars to be a "hot topic" and what is not.

### Ways to Organize Your Literature Review

#### Chronology of Events

If your review follows the chronological method, you could write about the materials according to when they were published. This approach should only be followed if a clear path of research building on previous research can be identified and that these trends follow a clear chronological order of development. For example, a literature review that focuses on continuing research about the emergence of German economic power after the fall of the Soviet Union. By Publication Order your sources by publication chronology, then, only if the order demonstrates a more important trend. However, progression of time may still be an important factor in a thematic review. The only difference here between a "chronological" and a "thematic" approach is what is emphasized the most: Note however that more authentic thematic reviews tend to break away from chronological order. A review organized in this manner would shift between time periods within each section according to the point made.

#### Methodological

A methodological approach focuses on the methods utilized by the researcher. For the Internet in American presidential politics project, one methodological approach would be to look at cultural differences between the portrayal of American presidents on American, British, and French websites. Or the review might focus on the fundraising impact of the Internet on a particular political party.

### 2: How to write a literature review - Help & Writing - Concordia University Library

*In a stand-alone literature review, this statement will sum up and evaluate the current state of this field of research. In a review that is an introduction or preparatory to a thesis or research report, it will suggest how the review findings will lead to the research the writer proposes to undertake.*

Check the Sample and Order Today! When it is time to write your literature review paper, the expert advice and assistance we offer will prove immeasurable in terms of value. We take the success of your literature review paper to heart, and will work with you day and night to assure you are getting the help you need to make it a roaring success. We know that the literature review research paper can be not only time-consuming and confusing, but it can also create undue stress in your life if you have no idea of how to go about writing it. Keep in mind when writing a lit review paper: We have seen from past experience that literature review papers written after students have studied an example of a literature review paper are better formed than those written by students who have not been presented with them. The example of a literature review in a research paper will allow you to move ahead with confidence and knowledge in knowing your work is moving in the right direction. We Teach How to Write a Literature Review One of the first things we will do when you hire our service communicates with you on how exactly to write a literature review. When you hire our service you will instantly have years of relevant experience backing your work. We have worked on many a literature review paper, and know what type of work needs to be in place to meet the rigorous academic standards of higher education. When knowledge of what the literature review paper entails has been offered to you, the desire to move forward and begin a paper you know will be of sound quality will result. Having our team work with you through each of the stages then likely to result will also provide you with a sense of confidence as you come to know that together we can aptly meet any literature review writing challenge that presents itself along the way. Yes, it can definitely be hard, especially if you have no clue how to do it and where to start. In fact, even having a little clue on these aspects, it can still be hard to accomplish writing one. A literature review is the part of the paper that discusses the side of other accredited researchers and scholars. This is the portion where you can support your hypothesis through several proven cases and statements from professionals and experts in the field. It is usually included in the Introduction part and establishes a strong foundation of knowledge for readers. It is in the literature review that you get the chance to display the strengths and weaknesses of the idea and theory you are trying to explore. This will serve as a background study for the concepts and will show if you have enough proofs and evidence of your point of view in the concept. Literature review gives you the chance to learn more about the topic you are exploring. And in order to make it easier for you, here are several practical tips to follow: Make sure to conduct preliminary research Researching before writing is the key to writing a high-quality literature review. In researching, you get to know more about the topic at hand, and in the process, you get to gather information, learn more about your topic, and be able to confidently write about it. Only use reputable and credible sources Using only credible and reputable sources is the key to having a high-quality output. It is important to only use trusted resources since it can backfire if you use doubtful sources. It is even a plus point if you choose sources that your professors know about. You can also choose the books and written outputs of the most popular personalities in the field. Use one writing style in your paper Having one writing style all throughout the entire paper will show your stability and consistency in your writing skills. If you have one style, it is highly likely that readers will feel the smooth and easy flow of thought in addition to the smooth flow of your writing style. Look for sample literature review One way for you to be able to write a great literature review is to know what a good one looks like. A sample can be your outline in writing your own literature review. Be organized in your research and writing tasks Be organized when you conduct your research and list down the important ideas that you can use to support your case. Create an outline on how the ideas should flow in the entire literature review and make sure to also take note of the sources and the authors. These details will be important once you write the references and bibliography section. Take note of them and conduct further research as much as you can in order to be able to explain to them once it comes to light. Knowing as much as you can about the

topic will help in better understanding of the subject matter and this goes the same way with its areas of controversies. Formulate important questions regarding your research Ask yourself questions that intrigue you about your research. Include questions that will make you analyze the research and subject. Think if you can approach the topic in another perspective. Create a clear definition of both the topic and audience Be clear about the topic you are discussing and who you want to read your written output. It is in reminding yourself of these factors that you will be able to properly approach the subject matter. Research on the topic extensively Researching your topic extensively will help you have more sources and information at hand. The more information you have, the more likely you can understand what you need to write about and have it a lot easier than not knowing. Make sure to be critical and consistent Be consistent and critical in making your statements. If you are pushing for one side of an argument, stick with it throughout the entire paper. Ask for a Quote.

## 3: Elements in the Literature Review

*A literature review can be a precursor to the introduction of a research paper, or it can be an entire paper in itself, acting as the first stage of large research projects and allowing the supervisor to ascertain that the student is on the correct path.*

Decide on a topic It will help you considerably if your topic for your literature review is the one on which you intend to do your final M. However, you may pick any scholarly topic. Identify the literature that you will review: Familiarize yourself with online databases see UMD library resource links below for help with this , identifying relevant databases in your field of study. Using relevant databases, search for literature sources using Google Scholar and also searching using Furl search all sources, including the Furl accounts of other Furl members. Some tips for identifying suitable literature and narrowing your search: Start with a general descriptor from the database thesaurus or one that you know is already a well defined descriptor based on past work that you have done in this field. You will need to experiment with different searches, such as limiting your search to descriptors that appear only in the document titles, or in both the document title and in the abstract. Redefine your topic if needed: Try to narrow it to a specific area of interest within the broad area that you have chosen remember: It is a good idea, as part of your literature search, to look for existing literature reviews that have already been written on this topic. Import your references into your RefWorks account see: Refworks Import Directions for guide on how to do this from different databases. You can also enter references manually into RefWorks if you need to. Analyze the literature Once you have identified and located the articles for your review, you need to analyze them and organize them before you begin writing: Skim the articles to get an idea of the general purpose and content of the article focus your reading here on the abstract, introduction and first few paragraphs, the conclusion of each article. You can take notes onto note cards or into a word processing document instead or as well as using RefWorks, but having your notes in RefWorks makes it easy to organize your notes later. Group the articles into categories e. You can record the topics in the same box as before User 1 or use User 2 box for the topic s under which you have chosen to place this article. Decide on the format in which you will take notes as you read the articles as mentioned above, you can do this in RefWorks. You can also do this using a Word Processor, or a concept mapping program like Inspiration free 30 trial download , a data base program e. Access or File Maker Pro , in an Excel spreadsheet, or the "old-fashioned" way of using note cards. Be consistent in how you record notes. Note key statistics that you may want to use in the introduction to your review. Select useful quotes that you may want to include in your review. If you copy the exact words from an article, be sure to cite the page number as you will need this should you decide to use the quote when you write your review as direct quotes must always be accompanied by page references. Since different research studies focus on different aspects of the issue being studied, each article that you read will have different emphases, strengths. Your role as a reviewer is to evaluate what you read, so that your review is not a mere description of different articles, but rather a critical analysis that makes sense of the collection of articles that you are reviewing. Identify major trends or patterns: As you read a range of articles on your topic, you should make note of trends and patterns over time as reported in the literature. This step requires you to synthesize and make sense of what you read, since these patterns and trends may not be spelled out in the literature, but rather become apparent to you as you review the big picture that has emerged over time. Your analysis can make generalizations across a majority of studies, but should also note inconsistencies across studies and over time. Identify gaps in the literature, and reflect on why these might exist based on the understandings that you have gained by reading literature in this field of study. These gaps will be important for you to address as you plan and write your review. Identify relationships among studies: You may also note that studies fall into different categories categories that you see emerging or ones that are already discussed in the literature. When you write your review, you should address these relationships and different categories and discuss relevant studies using this as a framework. Keep your review focused on your topic: As you take notes, record which specific aspects of the article you are reading are relevant to your topic as you read you will come up with key descriptors that you can record in your notes that will help you

organize your findings when you come to write up your review. If you are using an electronic form of note taking, you might note these descriptors in a separate field e. Evaluate your references for currency and coverage: Although you can always find more articles on your topic, you have to decide at what point you are finished with collecting new resources so that you can focus on writing up your findings. However, before you begin writing, you must evaluate your reference list to ensure that it is up to date and has reported the most current work. Typically a review will cover the last five years, but should also refer to any landmark studies prior to this time if they have significance in shaping the direction of the field. If you include studies prior to the past five years that are not landmark studies, you should defend why you have chosen these rather than more current ones. Summarize the literature in table or concept map format Galvan recommends building tables as a key way to help you overview, organize, and summarize your findings, and suggests that including one or more of the tables that you create may be helpful in your literature review. If you do include tables as part of your review each must be accompanied by an analysis that summarizes, interprets and synthesizes the literature that you have charted in the table. The advantage of using Excel is that it enables you to sort your findings according to a variety of factors e. Definitions of key terms and concepts. Research methods Summary of research results Step 6: Synthesize the literature prior to writing your review Using the notes that you have taken and summary tables, develop an outline of your final review. The following are the key steps as outlined by Galvan In the case of this Educ introductory literature review, your initial purpose is to provide an overview of the topic that is of interest to you, demonstrating your understanding of key works and concepts within your chosen area of focus. You are also developing skills in reviewing and writing, to provide a foundation on which you will build in subsequent courses within your M. Consider how you reassemble your notes: A literature review is not series of annotations like an annotated bibliography. In the case of a literature review, you are really creating a new forest, which you will build by using the trees you found in the literature you read. You may find the program Inspiration useful in mapping out your argument and once you have created this in a concept map form, Inspiration enables you to convert this to a text outline merely by clicking on the "outline" button. This can then be exported into a Microsoft Word document. Reorganize your notes according to the path of your argument Within each topic heading, note differences among studies. Within each topic heading, look for obvious gaps or areas needing more research. Plan to describe relevant theories. Plan to discuss how individual studies relate to and advance theory Plan to summarize periodically and, again near the end of the review Plan to present conclusions and implications Plan to suggest specific directions for future research near the end of the review Flesh out your outline with details from your analysis Step 7: Writing the review Galvan, Developing a coherent essay Galvan, Aim for a clear and cohesive essay that integrates the key details of the literature and communicates your point of view a literature is not a series of annotated articles. Use subheadings, especially in long reviews Use transitions to help trace your argument If your topic teaches across disciplines, consider reviewing studies from each discipline separately Write a conclusion for the end of the review: Provide closure so that the path of the argument ends with a conclusion of some kind. How you end the review, however, will depend on your reason for writing it. If the review was written to stand alone, as is the case of a term paper or a review article for publication, the conclusion needs to make clear how the material in the body of the review has supported the assertion or proposition presented in the introduction. On the other hand, a review in a thesis, dissertation, or journal article presenting original research usually leads to the research questions that will be addressed. Check the flow of your argument for coherence.

### 4: Have the Best Literature Review Paper

*The main focus of an academic research paper is to develop a new argument, and a research paper is likely to contain a literature review as one of its parts. In a research paper, you use the literature as a foundation and as support for a new insight that you contribute.*

The introduction and literature review sections will introduce the problem and provide general information. The following section will describe each of these parts in more detail. Additional information can be found in the Resources section of this module and in the Suggested Readings.

**Title** The title should be specific and indicate the problem the research project addresses using keywords that will be helpful in literature reviews in the future.

**Abstract** The abstract is used by readers to quickly review the overall content of the paper. Journals typically place strict word limits on abstracts, such as words, making them a challenge to write. The abstract should provide a complete synopsis of the research paper and should introduce the topic and the specific research question, provide a statement regarding methodology and should provide a general statement about the results and the findings. Because it is really a summary of the entire research paper, it is often written last.

**Introduction** The introduction begins by introducing the broad overall topic and providing basic background information. It then narrows down to the specific research question relating to this topic. It provides the purpose and focus for the rest of the paper and sets up the justification for the research.

**Literature Review** The purpose of the literature review is to describe past important research and it relate it specifically to the research problem. It should be a synthesis of the previous literature and the new idea being researched. The review should examine the major theories related to the topic to date and their contributors. It should include all relevant findings from credible sources, such as academic books and peer-reviewed journal articles.

**Methods** The methods section will describe the research design and methodology used to complete to the study. The general rule of thumb is that readers should be provided with enough detail to replicate the study.

**Results** In this section, the results of the analysis are presented. How the results are presented will depend upon whether the research study was quantitative or qualitative in nature. This section should focus only on results that are directly related to the research or the problem. Graphs and tables should only be used when there is too much data to efficiently include it within the text. This section should present the results, but not discuss their significance. The hypothesis should be answered and validated by the interpretation of the results. This section should also discuss how the results relate to previous research mentioned in the literature review, any cautions about the findings, and potential for future research. This section should be an alphabetized list of all the academic sources of information utilized in the paper. The format of the references will match the format and style used in the paper.

### 5: How to Write a Literature Review: Tips, Example, Outline, Template - EliteEssayWriters

*The introduction states the scope of your literature review, includes your thesis, gives your objective, tells readers how the review is organized, and situates your work in the existing scholarly conversation.*

How to Write a Literature Review How to Write a Literature Review A well-written literature review should provide your readers a deep insight on the writings that helped you build your research. A literature review is not just a summary. It should have a solid structure with clear explanation and, above all, it should have substance. What exactly does this mean? Well, your readers should find this chapter informative and targeted, there is no doubt about it. Why were they so important to the contouring of your direction? Why did they inspire you? Try to answer these three questions outlining the value of your chosen writings. You should have a good list of high-quality studies or different articles supporting your subject. To help you come up with the best result, here are some ideas on how to write a literature review. The importance of a literature review A literature review has an important role in the structure of a thesis. It should point out the articles and studies that have inspired the writer, but it has different other meanings too: It provides readers a comprehensive report on how significant the topic is by proving the importance of the articles cited; It gives readers the chance to compare and evaluate different valuable writings that have inspired the writer. Thus, the literature review does more than offering a theoretical approach, but it creates a window of inspiration for other researchers; The audience can make an idea on what is the focus of the paper, for the literature review offers a hint in this direction. Readers can, therefore, predict which is the area of focus. It shows a different perspective on previous research, identifying any contradictions or gaps, finding new ways to define a particular matter. A literature review gives a chance for new interpretations, it proves that your own thesis is a starting point for future debates and ideas. Mixing old and new materials to form a different perspective is not uncommon since a literature review is more than often a combination of ideas put together in an original synthesis. It highlights the credibility of your research in a particular field. Make sure you understand the requirements A literature review can be a thesis on its own. Many professors ask students to write literature reviews on a specific subject, which is why it is important to have a clear overview on this aspect. So first and foremost, ask your instructor if you should conduct your own research or just evaluate other literature in order to build up a synthesis of your findings. Some teachers will be clear upon the type of sources that they prefer books, journals, websites, etc. Before getting the pen and paper, you have to know exactly how the content of your writing should look like. Sources that are relevant to your research can be found in a variety of libraries and online catalogs. You can use specific keywords to search the Internet, every option works fine as long as you focus on your subject. With such a great amount of interesting articles to read, it can get a little bit overwhelming to make a selection. Here is an example: Searching for this type of writings can take more time than predicted since the topic has so many interesting aspects. With a subject so rich in possibilities, it can be harder to concentrate on a particular aspect. Sure, losing weight is also about good food quality, but this is not your focus. Order now Take all the time you need to read and understand your sources Are you familiar with the "burning steps" method? It is important to really understand what you are reading. So make sure you start reading every book and article you need with a considerable advance. Once the deadline gets closer, it is not a secret that the pressure is higher. And the chances to overlook important information are higher too. The more difficult the topic, the longer the time, obviously. Make the next step by detachedly evaluating them. Here are some concerns to think about: Is the author of the article an expert in your chosen field? If not, how is his work relevant to your thesis, considering that he does not have a qualification? Does the article go into one direction only or does it leave room for interpretation? Is the author offering convincing evidence to support his theory? Is he using other studies or is he offering his own approach? In addition to these aspects, keep in mind that you need to keep unaltered the original content. You can make a proper evaluation by mastering the topic you are researching. This way you can extract the oversights if any. Take notes The number of sources that need to be assessed can prove to be overwhelming, so at the end, you will find yourself puzzled by how much information needs to be put together. To avoid this, we strongly recommend you take notes as you read.

At first sight, it seems that it only hinders the process of profoundly reading the articles and studies. But we promise that it actually simplifies the entire procedure. Here are some reasons why we encourage you to note down any piece of information you find revealing: Imagine that with so many facts to piece together, it is nearly impossible to remember each and one of them. So taking notes as you go through your readings is a great idea. It works with online sources too. This is because you are encouraged to go through the same sequences twice, and while it looks like a waste of time, it is actually an excellent way to build the foundation of your literature review. It works even better when finding studies contrary to your perspective, for it gives you the time to analyze the facts and build a counter-argument, if necessary. So make sure you always have a notepad close when studying your sources. You can use any interesting quotes that you might find useful to your thesis. A citation will offer credibility to your work, especially when it comes from an author with expertise in your field of study. However, if you choose a quote, make sure to paraphrase the original words, citing the author. You will need the page number in order to write the reference by the book, so noting down as you read seems like a better choice. Be organized In order to write a meaningful literature review, you have to come up with a clear classification of the articles you have chosen to dress up your thesis. You can create the same assortment for those offering contrasted arguments, in opposition to yours. This way you make sure you underline your position, bringing a new light upon the sources that have treated the subject before. To make it easier, you can divide your review into two distinct parts, one offering sources similar to your statement, the other showing the opposite. Not to mention that this way they can browse any category they like if they lack time to read the entire review. You can give it a try. Moreover, try to look for any common or opposed conclusions and search for the most influential assumptions. Is there any pattern, are there any trends that seem to lead your research into a different direction? However, remember that popular theories can be overturned at any time, as long as you bring evidence to support your sayings. We thought the Earth is flat once until somebody has proven us wrong, remember? Analyze instead of reporting Your literature review should not just cover a collection of studies. It is more than a description, it is an analysis, which means that you have to dig deeper. Evaluate, measure and compare your sources. Write a pertinent observation, with relevant pointing outs and strong evidence to prove how your theory works compared to the ones you have been analyzing. There has to be a central concept which entitles your entire work, try to give it meaning. Simply describing the literature is meaningless for a powerful review. Provide some clues about the findings Before closing up, make sure you have included one or two paragraphs summarizing your findings. The literature review often times covers only the theoretical part of your work, it is the research methods that will help you build up your own notions. There are certain circumstances when a literature review works as a study on its own, in which case writing the conclusion is an understatement. Though, going back to the much more complex research papers such as dissertations, students frequently disregard these few sentences summarizing the conclusion. Thus, your readers will have a sense of familiarity examining the body of the article, which opens their reading appetite. Proofread your paper Needless to say how important it is to revise your work. Not only to check any grammatical or spelling errors but only to make sure that you have covered all the important aspects of your chosen studies. All in all, writing a literature review requires strong knowledge about a particular field of study, so one can recognize valuable and an up-to-date studies. It is key to a successful start.

## 6: Guidelines for writing a literature review

*1. Introduction. Not to be confused with a book review, a literature review surveys scholarly articles, books and other sources (e.g. dissertations, conference proceedings) relevant to a particular issue, area of research, or theory, providing a description, summary, and critical evaluation of each work.*

How to write a research paper What is a literature review The literature review is a written overview of major writings and other sources on a selected topic. Sources covered in the review may include scholarly journal articles, books, government reports, Web sites, etc. The literature review provides a description, summary and evaluation of each source. It is usually presented as a distinct section of a graduate thesis or dissertation. Purpose of the literature review The purpose of the literature review is to provide a critical written account of the current state of research on a selected topic: Identifies areas of prior scholarship Places each source in the context of its contribution to the understanding of the specific issue, area of research, or theory under review. Describes the relationship of each source to the others that you have selected Identifies new ways to interpret, and shed light on any gaps in, previous research Points the way forward for further research. Components of the literature review The literature review should include the following: Objective of the literature review Overview of the subject under consideration. Clear categorization of sources selected into those in support of your particular position, those opposed, and those offering completely different arguments. Discussion of both the distinctiveness of each source and its similarities with the others. Steps in the literature review process Preparation of a literature review may be divided into four steps: Define your subject and the scope of the review. Search the library catalogue, subject specific databases and other search tools to find sources that are relevant to your topic. Read and evaluate the sources and to determine their suitability to the understanding of topic at hand see the Evaluating sources section. Analyse, interpret and discuss the findings and conclusions of the sources you selected. Evaluating sources In assessing each source, consideration should be given to: Does the selected source contribute to a more profound understanding of the subject? Examples of a published literature review Literature reviews are often published as scholarly articles, books, and reports. Here is an example of a recent literature review published as a scholarly journal article: Critical race theory in education: A review of past literature and a look to the future. Qualitative Inquiry, 21 3 , Link to the article Additional sources on writing literature reviews Further information on the literature review process may be found below:

## 7: What is a Literature Review?

*Your literature review then is a discussion of the themes and ideas that these studies share and how your research idea furthers or advances these themes. Another way to examine the literature is called progressive coherence.*

Gale Encyclopedia of Genetic Disorders, Oxford Handbook of Internal Medicine Types of Scientific Publications These examples and descriptions of publication types will give you an idea of how to use various works and why you would want to write a particular kind of paper. Scholarly article aka empirical article Review article Conference paper Scholarly aka empirical article -- example Empirical studies use data derived from observation or experiment. Original research papers also called primary research articles that describe empirical studies and their results are published in academic journals. Articles that report empirical research contain different sections which relate to the steps of the scientific method. Abstract - The abstract provides a very brief summary of the research. Introduction - The introduction sets the research in a context, which provides a review of related research and develops the hypotheses for the research. Method - The method section describes how the research was conducted. Results - The results section describes the outcomes of the study. Discussion - The discussion section contains the interpretations and implications of the study. References - A references section lists the articles, books, and other material cited in the report. Review article -- example A review article summarizes a particular field of study and places the recent research in context. It provides an overview and is an excellent introduction to a subject area. The references used in a review article are helpful as they lead to more in-depth research. Many databases have limits or filters to search for review articles. You can also search by keywords like review article, survey, overview, summary, etc. Conference proceedings, abstracts and reports -- example Conference proceedings, abstracts and reports are not usually peer-reviewed. A conference article is similar to a scholarly article insofar as it is academic. Conference articles are published much more quickly than scholarly articles. You can find conference papers in many of the same places as scholarly articles. To identify an article based on empirical research, look for the following characteristics: The article is published in a peer-reviewed journal. The article includes charts, graphs, or statistical analysis. The article is substantial in size, likely to be more than 5 pages long. The article contains the following parts the exact terms may vary:

## 8: Parts of a Research Paper

*i» ¿Reviewing of literature is an essential part of your academic research project. The review is a careful examination of a body of literature pointing toward the answer to your research question.*

## 9: Components of a Research Paper - Center for Innovation in Research and Teaching

*A literature review surveys books, scholarly articles, and any other sources relevant to a particular issue, area of research, or theory, and by so doing, provides a description, summary, and critical evaluation of these works in relation to the research problem being investigated. Literature.*

*By-laws, of the Corporation, for Superintending, Managing Conducting, the clergy reserves, in Upper Canad Blueberries and blackberries : extraordinarily nutritious The geographical system of Herodotus G.B.S. and the lunatic Captain James Cook genius afloat Aldington and the bicycle that really was John swales genre analysis Can insurance increase financial risk ? the curious case of health insurance in China Motor truck and automobile motors and mechanism Pt. XIII: Adolescent medicine Book, Bottles and Bum Raps Back and neck disorders sourcebook Fundamentals of industrial catalytic processes A grammar of the dialect of West Somerset. Frommers Boston 2000 Savior at Stones River James Hepburn, earl of Bothwell, by G. G. Smith. Amazon case study strategic management Glamis [by lady Glamis. Samurai Elf (book 1) Sermon, delivered at Portsmouth, N.H. appropriate to the occasion of a day of humiliation and prayer Pottery, porcelain, and glass. V.I. Early London. Holographic Wormhole Drive: Philosophical Breakthrough in FTL Warp-Drive Technology Art Since Mid-Century Star wars galaxy guide 10 bounty hunters Prayer as conversation : the deep roots of prayer To enable ument rights in Managing risk in construction projects smith Computing with C and the .NET Framework IV The Rise of Italian Art Power Electronics to Raman Scattering, Volume 15, Encyclopedia of Applied Physics Can you delete part of a with mac United Methodist Connections The Ghost in the House Dave Yetton. Musician. World of Lincoln Steffens. Internet service provider business A snicker of magic book Open source biology Andrew Hessel*