



Guidelines for Independent study

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What is a literature review and how it is differ from a research paper
Strategies before writing your literature review

Assessment

- Assessment will be according to the assessment form distributed.
- 60% for writing, 40% presentation.
- Written part will be marked by 3 academic staff
- 3 teaching staff will attend final presentation.

The Purpose of BSc independent study

- Demonstrate deep information on the area
- Great skills in academic writing

It is not a research paper

- Main focus of a research is developing new argument.
- A literature review is a part of research paper
- Used as foundation & support for a new insight you contribute
- By summarize & synthesize the arguments and ideas of others without adding new contribution

So What is a Literature review ?

Literature review

- A discussion of published information in a particular subject area, and sometimes in a particular subject area within a certain time period.
- Can contribute as a section of a paper, or written as a paper itself.

Literature review

- Could be just a simple summary of the sources.
(recap of the imp info)
- Or combine both summary & synthesis;
 - . Reorganization or reshuffling of that info
 - . Might give new interpretation of old material
 - . Or combine new with old interpretation
- May evaluate the sources & advise the reader on the most pertinent or relevant

According to Caulley (1992), Literature review SHOULD:

- Compare/contrast dif author's views
- Group authors who draw similar conclusions
- Critical aspects of methodology
- Note areas on which authors are in disagreement
- Highlight exemplary studies
- Highlight gaps in research
- Show how your study relates to previous studies
- Conclude by summarising what the literature says

Why do we write a literature review ?

- Provide a handy guide to a particular topic
- Give an overview or act as stepping stone
- For professionals; useful report to keep them up to date with what is current in the field
- For scholars; emphasize the credibility of the writer in his or her field
- Provide a solid background for a research paper investigation
 - essential for most research papers
- Avoid unnecessary duplication

Your aims

- To show your reader (your tutor) that you have read & have a good grasp of the main published work concerning a particular topic or question in your field.
- Your review **SHOULD NOT** be simply a description of published work in the form of a set of summarise.
- But you **SHOULD** take the form of critical discussion, showing insight & an awareness of differing arguments, theories and approaches.
- **Should be** a synthesis & analysis of the relevant published work, linked all time to your own purpose and rationale

Before writing ..

1. Clarify

2. Find models;

to get a sense of the types of themes,
or ways to organize your review

(reference is sometimes a good entry point)

3. Narrow your topic;

the narrower the topic the easier to limit number of sources

4. Consider whether your sources are current;

treatment for medical problems are constantly changing according to latest studies

Strategies for writing a literature review;

A. Find a focus:

- ✓ read widely but selectively
- ✓ consider what themes or issues connect your sources together
- ✓ pick one of these themes to focus the organisation of your review

eg; do they present one of different solutions?

how do they present the materials?

is there an aspect of the field missing?

do they reveal a trend in the field? Or raging debate?

Strategies for writing a literature review;

B. Convey it to your reader;

- ✓ not a thesis statement, but need to tell what to expect
- ✓ write a simple statement that let the reader know your main organisation principle

Eg;

- The current trend in treatment for congestive heart failure combines surgery and medicine.

Strategies for writing a literature review;

- Consider organization:
 - ✓ what is the most effective way of presenting the info?
 - ✓ the most imp topics, sub-topics your review need to include?
 - ✓ in what order you should present them?

Structure; (in brief)

- 3 basic elements:
 1. Introduction or background information section;
give a quick idea of the topic (central theme or organization pattern)
 2. Body of the review containing the discussion of sources;
 3. conclusion or recommendation section to end the paper.

Your work for next week

- You have chosen a topic, so by next week you must:
 1. collect sources of that topic
 2. find a focused theme or issues that connect your sources together
 3. consider organization

Next week tutorial

- Literature review structure in details
- Formal academic writing style

THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION

• ANY QUESTIONS?

