

# MLR501

Hungpd2

# What is a Literature Review?

- an overview of previous research on your research topic
- a comprehensive review of all published research that is relevant to your proposed investigation and guided by your research objectives

# Writing a Literature Review

- What is literature review
  - Analyzing the problems: 5W1H
  - Scope of the problems
  - keyword
  - Database search: where

# Questions to Keep in Mind:

- What is known about the subject?
- Are there any gaps in the knowledge of the subject?
- Have areas of further study been identified by other researchers that you may want to consider?
- Who are the significant research personalities in this area?
- Is there consensus about the topic?
- What aspects have generated significant debate on the topic?
- What methods or problems were identified by others studying in the field and how might they impact your research?
- What is the most productive methodology for your research based on the literature you have reviewed?
- What is the current status of research in this area?
- What sources of information or data were identified that might be useful to you?

# Purpose of a Literature Review

- Convey the depth and breadth of research that has been accomplished on a subject
- Supports the motivation and significance of the research
- Identify important issues and link to hypotheses
- Identify key areas of missing knowledge
- Describe methodologies used
- Describe existing data sets
- Link proposed research to previous and ongoing research efforts -- provide context

# Purpose of a Literature Review

- Helps you learn everything about your subject
- Ensures that you are not “reinventing the wheel”
- Helps you learn about the people in the field (important for networking)

# How to do a Literature Review

- Define the research topic
- Compile and prioritize a list of keywords
- Identify sources of information
- Read, evaluate, analyze all the works
- Discuss findings and conclusions with others -- important for understanding context, gaps in previous research
- Divide works into supportive and antithetical positions
- Identify relationships between works in the literature
- Articulate how these apply to your research

# Identify Resources

- Books
- Journals
- Conference Papers
- Dissertations
- Bibliographies
- Maps
- Internet
- Indexes/Abstracts Printed
- Electronic Databases
- Government publications
- Theses
- Interviews and other unpublished research



# Assessment

- Assess the quality of the information source:
  - refereed journal article?
  - conference proceedings?
  - corporate report?
- Assess the standing of the author
  - academic?
  - journalist?
  - government employee?
  - is the work in their major field of research?

# Evaluate the Information

- determine the facts/points of view
- examine new findings
- question assumptions
- determine if methodology is appropriate
- are the objectives clearly outlined
- do the conclusions logically follow from the objectives?
- identify classic, “landmark” articles

# Continually Evaluate Your Research Process

- No relevant information?
  - Need to reconsider your search strategy
  - New keywords
  - Explore other disciplines for information
- Too many irrelevant items?
  - Re-evaluate keywords
  - Narrow scope of your search
- Document your search strategy
  - Keep multiple lists of keywords
  - Indicate what works, what doesn't

# Getting the Information

- Download full text from the Internet
- University library
- Specialty libraries

# Information Management

- Select a strategy for organizing information
  - Notecards (primitive but it works!)
  - List of references on a computer
  - Bibliographic database software (EndNote)
- Develop good literature search habits
  - Start immediately
  - Keep searches up to date
  - Summarize papers that you read