


# Literature review

## Writing a literature review : Academic Skills


Literature reviews determine what is known on a topic, how well this knowledge is established, and where future research might be directed. This page explains how to write literature reviews. A

 <https://students.unimelb.edu.au/academic-skills/explore-our-resources/report-writing/reviewing-the-literature>



## Research reports

This quick guide will help you identify the common elements and basic format of a research report. Research reports generally follow a similar structure and have common elements, each with a

 <https://students.unimelb.edu.au/academic-skills/explore-our-resources/report-writing/research-reports>



## How to write a literature review

A literature review is a survey of scholarly sources on a specific topic. It provides an overview of current knowledge, allowing you to identify relevant theories, methods, and gaps in the existing

 <https://www.scribbr.com/dissertation/literature-review/>

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### 1. Read

### 2. Organize reading

- chronologically
- by theoretical perspective
- from most to least important
- by issue or theme

### 3. Writing

- The descriptive / reporting element
  - what happened
  - what the author has discussed, found, did an account of the topic
- interpretive / critical element - 'the dialogue'
  - Asks & answers questions
  - Analyses, explains and interprets the information
  - Synthesises information to develop a point of view

## A standalone literature review

A standalone literature review is structured much like an academic essay.

- *Introduction* - establish the context for your topic and outline your main contentions about the literature
- *Main body* - explain and support these inferences in the main body

- *Conclusion* - summarise your main points and restate the contention.

## Resources:

<https://scholar.google.com/>

### Library

Visit the Library in any of its locations across several campuses for information, to use a PC, or to study. Our online resources are available 24 hours.



<https://library.unimelb.edu.au/>

