

WEEK 3 LAQ

Discuss about steps in literature review development.

Developing a literature review is a crucial step in conducting research and writing scholarly papers. It involves summarizing, analysing, and synthesizing existing research on a particular topic to provide a comprehensive understanding of what is already known and identify gaps in the literature. Here are the typical steps involved in developing a literature review:

1. Define Your Research Question or Topic:

Clarify Objectives: Clearly define the research question or hypothesis you aim to address. This will guide your search and help you stay focused.

Scope and Focus: Determine the scope of your review. Are you focusing on a broad area or a specific aspect of a topic?

2. Conduct a Comprehensive Literature Search:

Identify Sources: Use databases, academic journals, books, and other relevant sources to find literature related to your topic. Common databases include PubMed, JSTOR, Google Scholar, and Scopus.

Keywords and Search Terms: Develop a list of keywords and search terms that are relevant to your topic. Use Boolean operators (AND, OR, NOT) to refine your search.

Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria: Set criteria for what sources to include or exclude based on relevance, date, quality, and type of publication.

3. Review and Select Relevant Literature:

Initial Screening: Read abstracts and summaries to determine if the papers are relevant to your research question.

Full-Text Review: Obtain and read the full texts of the selected papers. Evaluate their methodologies, findings, and relevance to your topic.

Organize Sources: Keep track of the literature you review. Use reference management tools like EndNote, Zotero, or Mendeley to organize citations and manage bibliographic data.

4. Analyze and Synthesize Findings:

Summarize Key Findings: Identify the main findings, theories, and arguments presented in the literature.

Identify Patterns and Themes: Look for common themes, trends, and gaps in the literature. This will help you understand the current state of research and where your work fits in.

Compare and Contrast: Compare different studies to highlight similarities and differences in findings and methodologies.

5. Develop a Structured Review:

Introduction: Provide context for your review. Explain the significance of the topic and the purpose of your literature review.

Body: Organize the body of your review by themes, trends, or chronologically. Discuss the contributions of each source, how they relate to one another, and how they contribute to the overall understanding of the topic.

Critical Analysis: Offer critical insights into the strengths and weaknesses of the studies reviewed. Discuss methodological issues, biases, and limitations.

6. Write and Revise:

Draft the Review: Write a draft of your literature review based on your structured outline. Ensure that your review flows logically and cohesively.

Revise and Edit: Review and revise your draft for clarity, coherence, and accuracy. Ensure proper citation of sources and adherence to the required formatting style.

Seek Feedback: If possible, get feedback from peers or advisors to improve the quality of your review.

7. Prepare for Publication or Presentation:

Finalize the Document: Make any final revisions based on feedback. Ensure that your literature review is polished and ready for submission.

Prepare for Presentation: If presenting, prepare a summary or slides that highlight the key points of your review.

8. Update Regularly:

Ongoing Research: Keep your literature review up-to-date with new research findings, especially if your review is part of an ongoing study or a long-term project.

Developing a literature review is an iterative process that requires critical thinking and thorough analysis. By following these steps, you can create a comprehensive review that provides valuable insights and contributes to the academic conversation on your topic.