

# Literature review

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# Purpose of the literature review

## Goals of a Literature Review

⌘ *To demonstrate a familiarity with a body of knowledge and establish credibility.*

A review tells a reader that the researcher knows the research in an area and knows the major issues. A good review increases the reader's confidence in the researcher's professional competence, ability, and background.

<https://tinyurl.com/yxorku2h>

# Purpose of the literature review

## Purpose of the literature review (Rudestam and Newton)

- To provide a context for your study
  - To explain the importance of your study
  - To explain the timeliness of your study
  - To clarify the relationship between your study and previous work in the field
  - To demonstrate that your study is worthwhile and distinctive
- **le – it is not just a demonstration of your knowledge of the existing literature!**

<https://tinyurl.com/yxorku2h>

# A good literature review

1. Puts your research into context
  - a. Start with the wider topic / issue
  - b. Focus on what you will be doing

Think of a funnel

2. Finds gaps in existing literature that need exploring
3. Helps to formulate a research question



# Search parameters

1. Define search terms
  - a. Topic
  - b. Keywords
  - c. Broad vs narrow
2. Results will probably require refinement
3. Search terms are often subjective

# The problem with search terms

- Might limit your search results
- Might miss key aspects of your research area
- Susceptible to criticism by other researchers

# Alternative approach

1. Start with one or two search terms
  - a. Review limited amount of literature
  - b. Identify additional search terms based on keywords and titles
2. Find review article
  - a. Identify key research areas
  - b. Identify key authors / research groups



# Choosing your literature

Qualities of your literature

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Qualities of your literature

- Objective
- Verifiable
- Trustworthy
- Relevant

# Types of literature

Internet sources

Peer reviewed journals

Technical reports

Business reports

Books

Conference proceedings

# Which one do you trust?

Wikipedia

Peer reviewed journals

Technical reports

Business reports

Blog

Reputable organisation