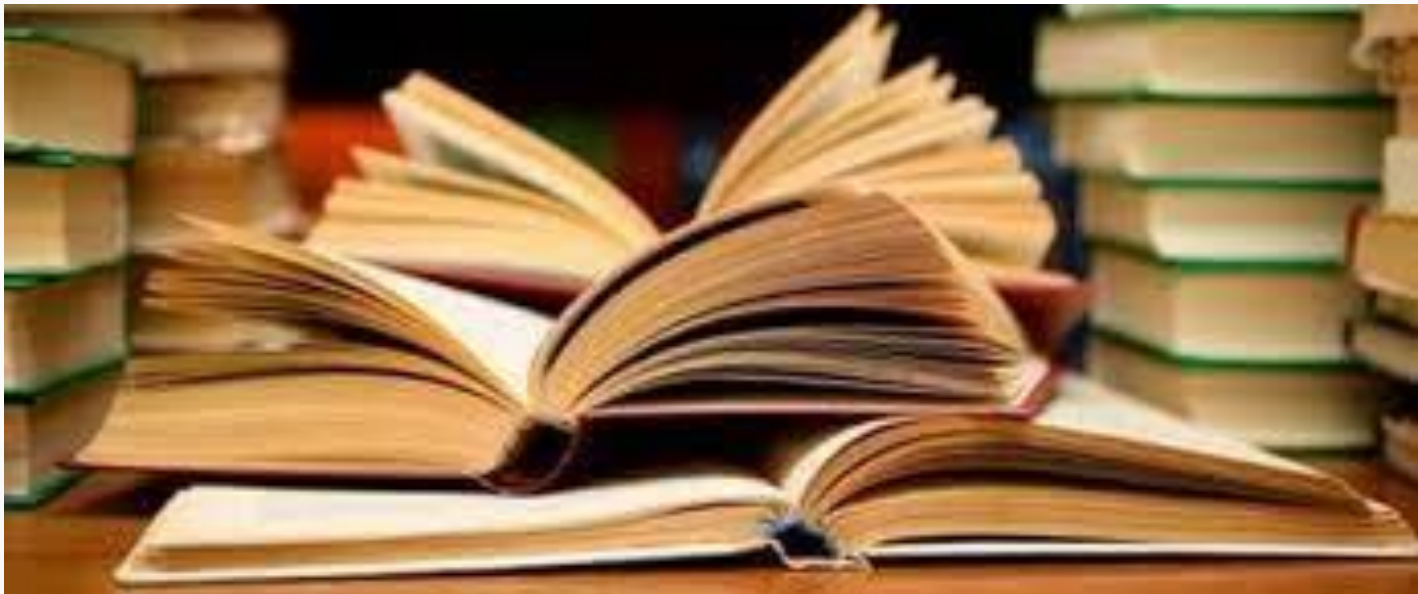


Literature Review



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Literature Reviews

- are an integral part of graduate studies to help you become fully conversant with a topic area
- may be a stand alone paper or part of a research paper or proposal
- present a survey of scholarly articles, books and other sources that provides a summary, synthesis and critical evaluation of key ideas and work on a topic area
- present a big picture or overview of significant work done on a topic
- enable you to gain deep understanding and insight by standing on the shoulders of giants
- help you prepare for further original research by analysis of the current state of research on a topic
- take time, patience, a clear mind and good organizational skills

Paraphrasing - how to cite (an example)

"A core assumption of trait theory is the existence of relatively stable trait attributes of individuals that predict their behavior across time and situations (Johnson, 1997; Kenrick & Funder, 1988). For example, in their Five-Factor Theory, McCrae and Costa (1996) proposed that the Big Five dimensions of Extraversion, Agreeableness, Conscientiousness, Neuroticism, and Openness to Experience are universal and heritable dimensions that should predict relevant behavior in all cultures."

From Church, Katigbak, Reyes, Salanga, Miramontes, & Adams, 2008, p. 1200.

Paraphrasing - methods

1. Look away from the source; then write
2. Take notes (before writing)
3. While looking at the source, first change the structure, then the words

(Wisconsin Writing Center, n.d., p. 4)

Paraphrasing Exercise

Summarize Funder's point in one sentence so that readers know that Funder introduced these four methods:

"I maintain that to look at an individual's personality, you can do four different things. First, and perhaps most obviously, you can ask the person directly for her own opinion about what she is like. This is exactly what personality psychologists usually do. Second, you can find out what other people who know the person well say about her. Third, you can check on how the person is faring in life. And finally, you can observe what the person does and try to measure her behavior as directly and objectively as possible. "

Funder, D. (2010). *The Personality Puzzle* (5th ed.). New York, NY: W. W. Norton & Co.

Four major directions for literature review

1. Research theory and philosophy - to establish the intellectual context(s) of research related to your subject.
2. History of developments in your subject - to trace the background to present thinking.
3. Latest research and developments in your subject - to inform about the current issues being investigated and the latest thinking and practice, to discuss the conflicting arguments, and to detect a gap in knowledge.
4. Research methods - to explore practical techniques that have been used, particularly those that might be relevant to your project.

Tasks associated with literature review writing

1. Compile an overview of the literature to illustrate the interplay of ideas and major steps in the development of your subject.
2. Introduce the important issues of your research problem through the analysis of the literature.
3. Explain the general theoretical background to help the reader understand the attitudes behind the reviewed literature and your own philosophical stance.

Tasks associated with literature review writing

4. Make links across discipline boundaries when doing an interdisciplinary review, rather than keeping each separate and examined in turn. You may even suggest some new links that need to be investigated.
5. Include some account of how the previous research was done, so that you have a precedent for your own approach to methodology.

Google Sheet for preparing paper summaries

Literature review sheet ☆								
File Edit View Insert Format Data Tools Add-ons Help All changes saved in Drive								
Comments Share								
fx								
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	Number	Authors	Title (link)	Research problem or question addressed	Theories or frameworks used	Research design and method	Findings	Notes or Comments
2	1	Bolloju N. and Leung F.S.K. (2006)	Assisting novice analysts in developing quality conceptual models with UML	identification of errors made by novice systems analysts in developing popular conceptual models with UML	conceptual model quality framework by Lindland et al; Syntactic, semantic and pragmatic components of model quality	Descriptive research; empirical evaluation of project reports prepared by undergraduate students	small set of commonly committed errors in creating domain models, use case models and sequence diagrams	useful for teaching conceptual modeling techniques; data set selected for this study is too small (14 project reports); lacks rigor
3	2							
4	3							
5	4							
6								
7								

Collaborating on literature search and review

- One of the team members should create a shared folder on Google Drive and share it with other team members
- Make a copy of this [Google Sheet](#) so that you and your team members can add summaries of the relevant papers
- Keep a copy of each paper you review (pdf or Word) in the same Google Drive folder and link it to the paper title (as shown in the first entry)

Reading a research paper in three passes

- Pass # 1 - to get a general idea about the paper (5 to 10 min).
- Pass # 2 - to grasp the paper's content, but not its details (about one hour).
- Pass # 3 - to understand the paper in depth (four to five hours).

See ccr.sigcomm.org/online/files/p83-keshavA.pdf for details.

Literature Review Plan - Example

P1 (introduction to enterprise social networks)

- introduction to social networks used by companies (e.g., LinkedIn, Facebook)
- usage statistics of such networks by organizations and employees

P2 (major types of social networks and their usage)

- types of social networks (public vs private)
- some examples of how companies are benefiting these networks in different countries (large and medium types of organizations)
- categorization of usage or modes of usage

P3 (failures or risks from using social networks in organizations)

- failures or risks from using social networks in companies (waste of time; loss of productivity)
- examples of failed attempts and reasons

P4 (leading to the research question)

- can social networks really benefit companies;
- opportunities vs. risks

P5 (identify gaps in the research; possible outcomes of this study)

- existing studies focus on individual usage or simple anecdotal evidence of using specific social networks
- need for a better understanding of opportunities and potential risks
- offer guidelines for organizations planning to use social networks

Example text for p1

(intro to enterprise social networks)

"Social networks on the Internet are becoming extremely popular and have begun to change the way that we live and work (Fraser & Dutta, 2008). Some of these networks are business-oriented and can create work-related opportunities. The most notable of these is LinkedIn, which concentrates on business connections and job placements. Since 2007 numerous major corporations have opened pages on Facebook, MySpace, Second Life, LinkedIn and other social networks (Rutledge, 2008). Web 2.0 technologies, including wikis, discussion forums, blogs and microblogs (most notably Twitter), are currently being successfully used by many companies. ..."

Exercise - Searching for relevant papers for literature review plan

P2 (major types of social networks and benefits from their usage)

- types of social networks (public vs private)
- some examples of how companies are benefiting from these networks in different countries (large and medium types of organizations)
- categorization of usage or modes of usage

P3 (risks from using social networks in organizations)

- failures or risks from using social networks in companies (waste of time; loss of productivity)
- examples of failed attempts and reasons
- types or categories of risks or failures

Find 3 or 4 references (using Google Scholar) which can be used for writing text for P2 or P3 above (submit the list of references found)