REVIEW OF LITERATURE

A JOURNEY THROUGH LITERATURE

INTRODUCTION

❖ The review of literature is a summary of all the reviews from various research literatures related to the current study carried out by a researcher.

❖ It helps to discover what is already known about the research problem and what more has to be done.

❖ According to Abdellah and Levine, the material gathered in literature review should be included as a part of the research data, since it influence the problem and research design it can be used to compare the results and findings for the current study.

DEFINITION

❖ A literature review is an assessment of a body of research that addresses a research question.

❖ An organized written presentation of what has been published on a topic by the scholars.
(Burns and Grove, 2005)

❖ An Account of what has been published by accredited scholars and researchers.
(Taylor, 2011)

Characteristics of a Good Quality Review of Literature

❖ A good review of literature must be comprehensive.
❖ It should include up-to-date references.
❖ It should be systemic.
❖ It should be reproducible.
❖ It should be free from bias.
❖ It should be well written.
❖ It should be in the form of sum of its parts.
❖ It should be clearly searched and selected.
❖ Accurate references should be given in the review.

Factors Affecting Review of Literature

❖ <u>**Researcher's Background**</u>
An experienced researcher finds it easy to prepare a review of literature than a beginner.

❖ <u>**Complexity of the research project**</u>
It is easy to collect review of literature for simple and easy research projects than complex ones.

❖ <u>**Availability of resources**</u>
Availability of resources like computer, internet facility, online and offline journal subscription makes it easy to prepare a good review of literature.

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❖ **Study time frame**

To conduct a relevant review of literature sufficient time is needed.

❖ **Availability of support system**

If there are many research scholars involved in the research then a good review of literature can be gathered.

Purpose of Review of Literature

❖ **It helps to identify what is already known about a research problem.**

❖ **It helps to build on previous knowledge.**

❖ **Many published research studies contain recommendation for future research, from which we can get idea for a new research study.**

❖ **It makes researcher know what research has already been done in a particular area so as to avoid duplication.**

❖ **It is necessary to narrow the problem to be studied.**

❖ **Identify questions a body of research does not answer**

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❖ **It helps researcher to get acquainted with the relevant theory, strategies, tools and instruments for conducting the research.**

❖ **It helps to understand the different ways of conducting the research study.**

❖ **It helps to identify comparative data so helps in interpretation and discussion of previous study.**

Types of Review of Literature:

Traditional or Narrative Review of Literature

• This type Critique and summarize literature to draw conclusion about a topic.

Systemic Review of Literature

• This method uses more well defined approach, mainly used for making a complete list of all published and unpublished studies relating to a particular topic.

Meta Analysis

• This type of review takes large quantitate findings and conducts a statistical analysis to integrate those findings enhance understanding.

Meta Synthesis

• This is a non-statistical method used to integrate and evaluate and interpret the findings of multiple similar quantitative studies, to identify the common elements.

Sources of Review of Literature

❖ **Literature sources may be classified as primary source and secondary source**

PRIMARY SOURCE:

❖ **A primary Source is a literature resource of a study written by the original researcher. It is research publication written by the person or people who conducted the research.**

❖ **Examples: Research Articles, Unpublished Thesis/Dissertation, Personal Diary, hand written records and reports, etc.**

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SECONDARY SOURCE:

❖ These are second hand information prepared or written by someone other than the original author.

❖ Examples: Newspaper, Book Chapters, Television, Radio, Magazine, Wikipedia, Journals, etc.

TERTIARY SOURCE:

❖ These are excellent sources that can provide general background information to help narrow or broaden the focus of a topic.

Primary Source

Literature review mostly relies on primary sources, i.e. research reports, which are description of studies written by researchers who conducted them.

A primary sources is written by a person who developed the theory or conducted the research, or is the description of an investigation written by the person who conducted it.

For example, a nursing research article.

A credible literature review reflects the use of mainly primary sources.

Example of a primary source: An original qualitative on patient experiences in the ICU: Hupcey, J. E. (2000). Feeling safe the psychosocial needs of ICU patients. Journal of Nursing Scholarship, 32:361-367.

Secondary Sources

Secondary source research documents are description of studies prepared by someone other than the original researcher.

They are written by people other than the individuals who developed the theory or conducted the research.

The secondary sources may be used when primary sources are not available or if researchers want external opinions on an issue or problem or even the results of their own research.

Example of a Secondary Source: A literature review on patient experiences in the ICU: Stein-Parbury, J. & Mckinley, S. (2000) patient experiences of being in an intensive care unit: a select literature review. American Journal of critical care, 9:20-27.

Resources of Literature Review
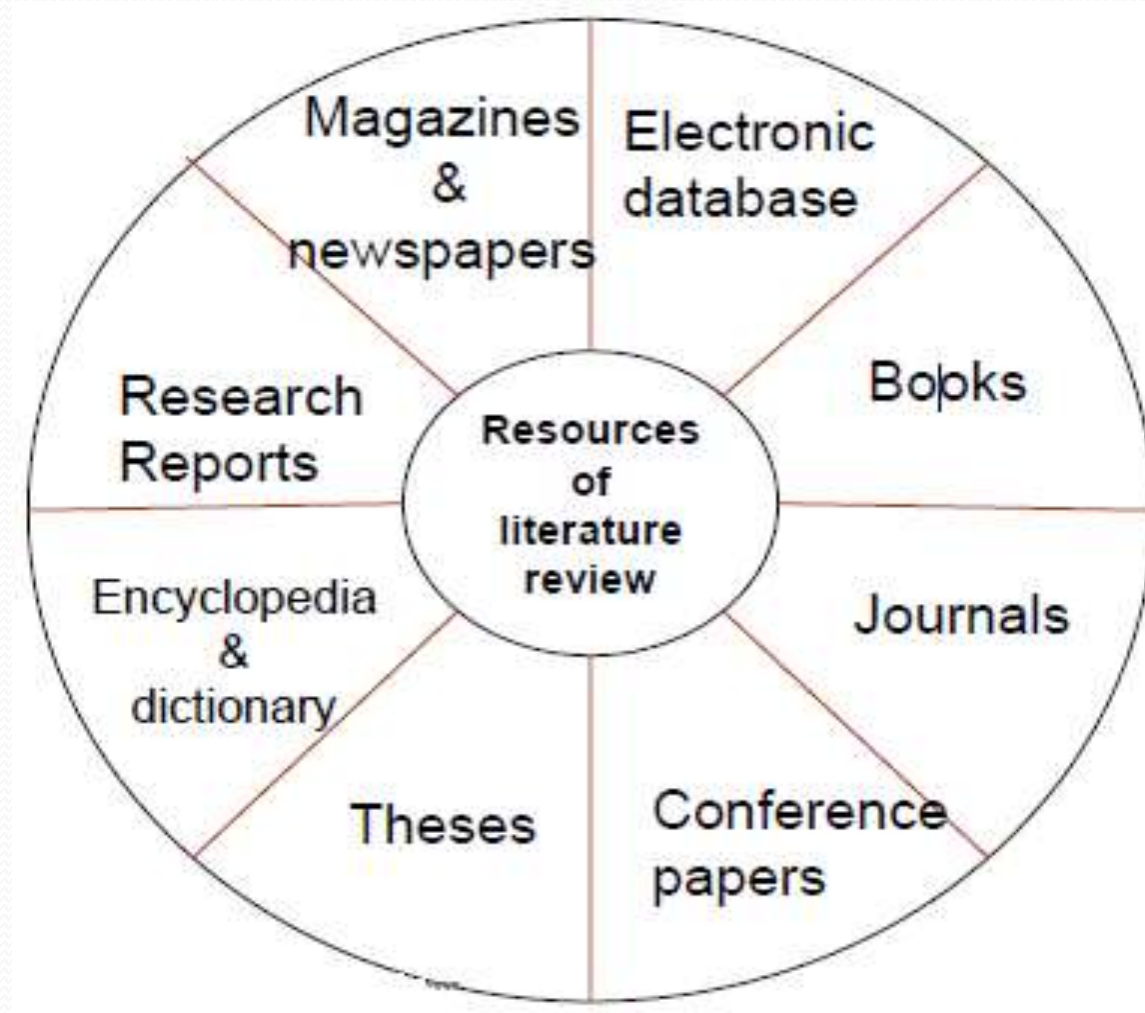
1. Electronic Sources

Computer-assisted literature search has revolutionized the review of literature.

These searches, however, for a variety of reasons may not provide the desired references.

Electronic literature search through web may be very useful, but sometimes it can be time consuming & unpredictable because there are many website & web pages that can lead to information overload & confusion.

However, currently it is one of the most important sources of literature search.

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General literature search can be conducted through search engines like Yahoo (**www.yahoosearch.com**),

Google (**www.google.com**), MSN search, Lycos, WebCrawler, Alta Vista, or Excite.

The most relevant nursing databases are as follows:

CINAHL (Cumulative Index to Nursing & Allied Health Literature): Accessible at **http://www.cinahl.com** it citations of nursing literature published after 1988. Even full-text articles are available on CINAHL plus, a paid web page.

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PubMed: PubMed can be used to search research

abstracts, available at http://pubmed.com

MEDLINE (Medical Literature Analysis & Retrieved System Online): It is another electronic source of literature review commonly used by nurses.

The National Library of Medicine provides free access to MEDLINE through PubMed, available at www.pubmed.com or

http://ncbi.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi. generally, abstracts of research articles are provided free of cost; some of the full-text copies are also freely available & some others are available for a free.

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Cochrane Database of System Reviews: Health care-related literature can be searched from this source, available at http://www.cochrane.org.

ERIC: The ERIC database is the largest source of education information. A free search may be carried out at http://www.eric.ed.gov.

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Registry of Nursing Research: Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing makes this database available through its Virginia Henderson International Nursing Library. Access to this database has been redesigned & made easier for users to obtain evidence & scientific findings from more than 2,200 research article & conference abstracts.

The research abstracts are searched via key words, author, & title of the research study. Free access to this database may be found at

http://www.nursinglibrary.org

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psycINFO: The psycINFO database belongs to American Psychological Association, & covers literature from psychological or related disciplines. It may be searched at

http://www.psychinfo.com.

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Online Journals: Following are the website addresses for journals & magazines that are available online:

http://www.nursefriendly.com/

http://www.nsna.org

http://www.healthweb.org

http://www.ispub.com/ostia/index.php

http://www.healthweb.org.browse.cfm?catergy=1727

http://www.juns.nursing.arizona.edu

http://www.medbioworld.com

http://www.nursingworld.org.ojin

http://www.eaa-knowledge.com.ojni/#

http://www.nursingweek.com

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Other online databases: Many other online database can be searched for free by nurses from the following websites:

http://www.aidsinfo.nih.gov (HIV/AIDS information)

http://www.hazmap.nlm.nih.gov (information on hazardous agents)

http://www.child.nih.gov (combined health information database)

http://www.toxinet.nlm.nih.gov (toxicology database network)

Cancer Lit (Cancer literature)

EMBASE (exerpta Medica Database)

ETOH (Alcohol & alcohol problems science database)

Health STAR (Health services technology administration & research)

Radix (Nursing managed care databse)

CD-ROM (Compact disc-read only memory) with research

2. Printed Sources

◉ **Printed research summary may be located from published abstracts such as Nursing Research, Abstract, Psychological Abstracts, Dissertation Abstract**

◉ **International, Masters Abstract International, etc.**

◉ **References of the other printed sources may be located through indexes such as cumulative Index to Nursing & Allied Health Literature, Nursing Studies Index, & Index Medicus.**

◉ **Following are the main printed sources that can be used to review the relevant literature:**

Journals: There are several National & International journals which can be used to review the researchrelated

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Name of national nursing journals

- Nursing & Midwifery Research Journal
- Indian journal of Nursing Research & Midwifery
- The nursing Journal of India
- Nightingale Nursing Times
- International Journal of Nursing Education
- Indian Journal of Nursing Studies

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Names of international journals

◎ **Nursing Research**

◎ **Research in Nursing & Health**

◎ **Nursing Sciences Quarterly**

◎ **Western Journal of Nursing Research**

◎ **Applied Nursing Research**

◎ **Biological Research for Nursing**

◎ **Advances in Nursing Sciences**

◎ **Clinical Nursing Research**

◎ **Worldviews on Evidence-Based Nursing**

◎ **Journal of Qualitative Research**

◎ **American Journal of Nursing**

Cont…

◉ **Research reports**

◉ **Unpublished dissertations & theses**

◉ **Magazines & newspapers**

◉ **Conference papers & proceedings**

◉ **Encyclopedias & dictionaries**

◉ **Books**

Steps of Literature Review

Stages of Literature Review

Stage I – Annotated Bibliography

❖ At this stage, researchers read articles, books & other types of literature related to the topic of research & write a brief critical synopsis of each review.

❖ After going through the reading list, researchers will have an annotation of each source of related literature.

❖ Later, annotations are likely to include more references of other work since previous readings will be available to compare, but at this point the important goal is to get accurate

Stage II – Thematic Organization

❖ At this stage, researchers try to find common themes of research topic & organize the literature under these themes, subthemes, or categories.

❖ Here, researchers try to organize literature under themes, which relate to each other & are arranged in a chronological manner.

❖ Researchers try to establish coherence between themes & literature discussed under theses themes.

Stage III – More Reading

❖ Based on the knowledge gained through primary reading, researchers have a better understanding about the research topic & the literature related to it.

❖ At this stage, researchers try to discover specific literature materials relevant to the field of study or research methodologies which are more relevant for their research.

❖ They look for more literature by those authors, on those methodologies, etc.

❖ Also, the researchers may be able to set aside some less relevant areas or articles which they pursued initially.

❖ They integrate the new readings into their literature review draft, reorganize themes.

Stage IV – Write Individual Sections

❖ At this stage, researchers start writing the literature under each thematic section by using previously collected draft of annotations.

❖ Here they organize the related articles under each theme by ensuring that every article is related to each other.

❖ Furthermore, related articles may be grouped together by ensuring the coherence between different segments of the literature abstracts.

❖ For each thematic sections, draft annotations are used to write a section which discusses the articles relevant to that theme.

Stage V – Integrate Sections

❖ **In this section, researchers have a list of the thematic sections & they tie them together with an introduction, conclusion, & some additions & revisions in the sections to show how they relate to each other & to the overall theme.**

Content of the Review

Introduction   **Body**   **Conclusion**

Writing the Introduction

While writing the introduction, following steps should be taken care of:

❖ Define or identify the general topic, issue, or area of concern, thus, providing appropriate context for reviewing the literature.

❖ Point out overall trends in what has been published about the topic or conflicts in theory, methodology, evidence, & conclusion or gaps in research & scholarship, or a single problem or new perspective of immediate interest.

❖ Establish the writer's point of view for reviewing the literature, explain the criteria to be used in analysing & comparing literature & organization or review (sequence).

Writing the Body

Following measures need to be undertaken while writing the body of the literature.

❖ **Group research studies & other types of literature (reviews, theoretical articles, case studies) according to common denominators such as qualitative versus quantitative approaches, conclusions of authors, specific purposes or objectives, chronology, & so on.**

❖ **Summarize individual studies or articles with as much as or as little detail as each merits according to its comparative importance in the literature, remembering that space denotes significance.**

❖ **Assist the reader with strong 'umbrella' sentences at the beginning of paragraphs, signpost throughout, & brief summary sentences at intermediate points.**

Writing the Conclusion

The points to be taken care of in the conclusion are as follows:

❖ **Summarize major contributions of significant studies & articles to the body of knowledge under review, maintaining the focus established in the introduction.**

❖ **Evaluate the current 'state of the art' for the body of knowledge reviewed, pointing out major methodological flaws or gaps in research, inconsistencies in theory, & finding & areas or issues pertinent to future study.**

❖ **Conclude by providing some insight into the relationship between central topic of the literature**

Examples

Example of a Bad Review:

Sexual harassment has many consequences. Adams, Kottke, & Padgitt (1983) found that some women students said that they avoided taking a class or working with certain professors because of the risk of harassment. They also found that men & women students reacted differently. Their research was conducted through a survey of 1,000 men & women graduate & undergraduate students. Benson & Thomson's study in social Problem (1982) lists many problems created by sexual harassment. In their excellent book, the Lecherous Professor, Dziech & Weiner (1990) give a long list of difficulties that victims have suffered.

Examples

Example of a Good Review:

The victims of sexual harassment suffer a range of consequences, from lowered self-esteem & loss of self-confidence to withdrawal from social interaction, changed career goals, & depression (Adams, Kottke, & Padgitt, 1983; Benson & Thomson, 1982; Dziech & Weiner, 1990). For example, Adams, Kottke, & Padgitt (1983) noted that 13% of women students said that they avoided taking a class or working with certain professors because of the risk of harassment.

Points To Be Considered

- ***Be specific & be succinct:***

Briefly state specific findings listed in an article, specific methodologies used in a study, or other important points. Literature reviews are not the place for long quotes or in-depth analysis of each point.

- ***Be selective:***

Researcher should narrow down a lot of information into a small space for literature review. Just the most important points (i.e. those most relevant to the review's focus) must be mentioned in each work of review.

Points To Be Considered

- *Focus of current topics:*

Researcher needs to analyse points such as if it is a current article, & if not, how old it is: has its claims, evidence, or arguments been superseded by more recent work; if it is not current, then if it is important for historical background ; etc.

- *Ensure evidence for claims:*

Researcher should focus on what support is given for claims made in literature. What evidence & what type (experimental, statistical, anecdotal, etc.) of evidences are offered? Is the evidence relevant & sufficient? What arguments are given? What assumptions are made?

Points To Be Considered

- ***Focus on sources of evidences:***

Researchers should ensure the reliability of the sources of the evidence or other information – if they are from author's own experiments, surveys, historical records, government documents, etc. He should check how reliable those sources are.

- ***Account of contrary evidences:***

Does the author take into account contrary or conflicting evidence & arguments? How does the author address disagreements with other researchers?

Points To Be Considered

- *Reference citation:*

Any references cited in the literature review must be included in the bibliography. The common practice is that the reviewer does not list references in the bibliography that are not directly cited in the literature review or elsewhere in the paper /thesis.

- *Avoid abbreviations:*

Avoid technical terms, jargons & abbreviations.

- *Simple & accurate sentence structure:*

A researcher should use simple sentences & must avoid errors of grammar & punctuation

Points To Be Considered

- *Organization of literature review:*

A literature review is organized by subtopic, not by individual references. In a typical literature review, the writers may cite several references in the same paragraph & may cite the same reference in more than one paragraph, if that source address more than one of the subtopics in the literature review. Typically, discussion of each sources is quite brief. The contribution the present reviewers make is organizing the ideas from the sources into a cogent argument or narrative that includes their perspectives.

Points To Be Considered

- ***Referring original source:***

The reviewer should focus on citing the material that originates with each reference. This may require a careful reading of the reference. If the reference author refers to another source whose ideas are relevant or interesting, it is better to track & use that original reference.

Conclusion

A literature review is an account of the previous efforts and achievements of researchers on a phenomenon. It helps to compare with other previous study. And a good review of literature is the foundation for a good research.

THANK YOU