

# Outline

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Literature Search
- 3 Review of Selected Literature
- 4 Writing the Literature Review
- 5 Summary

# What Is a Literature Review?

- Research, ideally, should further knowledge, by building upon the body of current knowledge and providing new research findings
- A literature review is the first stage in this process, as it gives you a chance to build up (and demonstrate) your knowledge of current research regarding your topic
- It is also an important stage since it significantly affects the following stages of your project
- It involves two steps:
  - Literature search – finding what you need
  - Review of the selected literature – making sense, i.e., understanding existing knowledge relevant to your research

# What a Literature Review Is Not?

A literature review is not

- A list of items you have come across, or a bibliography or summary of one text after another
- This is obviously part of the early stages of searching, organising and evaluating the literature

# Why Literature Review?

A literature review serves many different purposes:

- to position your own research
- to argue the case for the validity of your research by providing supporting evidence from the literature
- to avoid re-inventing the wheel
- to identify gaps in current knowledge
- to broaden your knowledge base in your research area
- to improve your research methodology
- to conceptualise your findings
- ...