5. Literature Review & APA Format

Strathmore
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Agenda

- Purposes of the Literature Review
- The Literature Review Process
- Search Aids, Key Words, Reading, & Notes
- Writing the Literature Review
- Referencing

Literature Review

- Before we can create new knowledge, we must first know the current state of knowledge about our research subject.

- Effective researchers will use knowledge and insights of others and draw on elements of prior research.

- In the literature review, the task is to learn as much as you can from the efforts and work of others – which is published in the "scientific literature".

Purposes of Literature Review

- The central purpose of the Literature Review is to provide the researcher (and the reader) with an understanding of literature about the proposed research.

- This includes the strengths and weaknesses!

- The research problem is the focus of the literature review

- But the literature may be related to the research project in several ways – through the problem, the objectives, and methods.

Purposes of Literature Review (Cont.)

- Prior research that addressed a similar problem or had similar objectives is relevant – you should know how others approached their problem and objectives.

- Likewise the approaches and procedures used by others can suggest what is likely to work for you.

- Studies can be related through both similarities and differences – the differences are especially important in methods and procedures.

Purposes of Literature Review (Cont.)

Specific   purposes, functions and benefits of a literature review include:

1. Prevents duplication of what has already been done   (Some duplication or confirmation of research is necessary, but excessive duplication is wasteful)
2. Help to identify new areas where research is needed (and how new research can contribute)
3. Provides ideas and direction for:
    – How to handle problems encountered
    – Techniques
    – Sources of data
    – Novel approaches for the research

The Literature Review Process

- Not all literature should be included in the review – only "scientific literature".

- This is literature which has been through a peer review process. This includes professional journals, formal research reports, university-affiliated bulletins, reports and monographs.

- Also includes similar publications by research foundations and international organizations.

- This does not insure that these are infallible, or even correct – but they have been through independent checks of accuracy and correctness.

The Literature Review Process

- "Popular" publications should not be included e.g. Newspapers, news magazines, or industry or popular publications.

- Even well respected publications, such as the Wall Street Journal, or The Economist are not appropriate sources for a literature review.

  (However, these sources may be useful to the researcher as background information during problem formulation)

- The literature review is intended to provide an overview and summary of prior reliable knowledge.

Reading

- It is often useful to start reading with the most recent publications. This allows:
    1. Focusing more quickly on current knowledge,
    2. Recent research often includes references to relevant earlier research

- First read the abstract or summary to determine relevance and whether to review the article.

- As you read, keep in mind that the central purpose is to identify and describe the relevance of the study to your research

Key Considerations During the Lit. Review

- Be sure you have a complete citation of each source.

- Keep written notes – do not rely on memory.

- Be thorough and systematic in keeping notes; note problem, objectives, methods, findings and conclusions

- Note questions, shortcomings or problems with the study.

Writing the Literature Review

- Literature reviews, like any part of a proposal, need organization.

- It should not be a series of unconnected summaries of studies, but rather a synthesis of previous related literature.

- Develop an outline of the literature review, before you start to write.

- Start with an introduction section, and end with a short summary that pulls all the main points together.

Writing the Literature Review

- Use subheadings to organize the literature review and direct the reader's attention.

- These are usually subject-matter headings, which logically group studies with a similar focus.

- The literature review should summarize, but not repeat information. Seek to analyze, compare and contrast the literature reviewed.

- Direct quotations can be useful, but use sparingly. Be reluctant to reproduce graphs or tables.

Referencing

- Referencing is a standardized method of acknowledging sources of information and ideas that you have used in your assignment in a way that uniquely identifies their source.

- Direct quotations, facts and figures, as well as ideas and theories, from both published and unpublished works, must be referenced.

- Referencing previous literature occurs throughout research proposal and research reports, but is used most in the literature review.

- We reference other literature to:
  - Provide supporting (or contrary) evidence for the views we write about
  - Assign credit for an idea, concept or result
  - Add information and details on matters discussed

Referencing (Cont.)

- Giving credit for thoughts, ideas, efforts and contributions of others is an important ethical issue.

- Plagiarism is the failure to give credit for an idea or research result to it's originator.

- Presenting someone else's words or ideas as your own is not only wrong but can hurt your professional standing.

- By properly referencing and giving credit for other's work, you show that are aware of the state of knowledge in your subject and are familiar with the work of leaders in the field.

Referencing (Cont.)

- The style used in referencing may vary with the type of publication, as well as your personal preference.

  - Footnotes (notes at the bottom of the page) or Endnotes (similar notes placed at the end of the paper) can be used, if allowed.

- Most commonly used is parenthetical referencing, which provides the author's last name, year of publication, and sometimes the page number. e.g. (Ethridge, 2004, p.122)

- The cited references then all appear in the Reference section at the end of the paper.

Referencing (Cont.)

- Another possible style is to use a number in parentheses   eg. [4], with a numbered References list at the end of the paper.

- Many different styles are used for the References section. It is best to refer to the style used by the agency or publication to which you are submitting the paper.

   e.g. Ethridge, Don. 2004. Research methodology in applied economics. Ames, IA: Blackwell Publ.

- Finally, the referencing of internet sources is not fully resolved. Generally, include the full web address and date of access of the website.

Steps Involved in Referencing

1. Note down the full bibliographic details of the source from which the information is taken. Include the relevant page number(s).
   - ✓ In the case of a book, 'bibliographical details' refers to: author/editor, year of publication, title, edition, volume number, place of publication and publisher as found on the front and back of the title page. (Not all of these details will necessarily be applicable).
   - ✓ In the case of a journal article the details required include: author of the article, year of publication, title of the article, title of the journal, volume and issue number of the journal, and page numbers.
   - ✓ For all electronic information, in addition to the above you should note the date that you accessed the information, and the database name or web address (URL).

2. Insert the citation at the appropriate place within the text of the document (see examples below).

3. Provide a reference list at the end of the document

American Psychological Association (APA) Referencing Style

- Used at Strathmore University.

In-Text Citations

- Use the name of the author, followed by the year of publication when citing references within the text of an assignment. Where authors of different references have the same family name, include the author's initials in the in-text citation i.e. (Hamilton, C. L., 1994) or C. L. Hamilton (1994).

- If two or more authors are cited at the same point in the text then they are included in the same in-text citation, separated by a semicolon, e.g. (Brown, 1991; Smith, 2003). They are presented alphabetically by author.

- When directly quoting from another source, the relevant page number must be given and double quotation marks placed around the quote.

- When paraphrasing or referring to an idea from another source which is a book or lengthy text, include the relevant page number, as it is useful to provide a page number for the reader.

APA Style/Standard Cont.

How to Create a Reference List

- A reference list only includes books, articles etc. that are cited in the text. In contrast, a bibliography is a list of relevant sources for background or for further reading.

- The reference list is arranged alphabetically by author. Where an item has no author it is cited by its title, and ordered in the reference list or bibliography alphabetically by the first significant word of the title.

- The APA style requires the second and subsequent lines of the reference to be indented, to highlight the alphabetical order.

- *Note: Page numbers should only be included in in-text citations when directly quoting from another source.*

Example 1: Book

- When citing a book you need the following elements, in this order:

  Author (year of publication): Book title. City of publication: Name of the publisher.

For example, if you looked at a **book** with these elements:

Author: Mack, Charles

Year of publication: 2005

Title: *Looking at the Renaissance: essays toward a conceptual appreciation*

Publisher: Taylor & Francis

Place of Publication: London

Your reference would look like this:

Mack, C. (2005). *Looking at the Renaissance: Essays toward a conceptual appreciation*. London: Taylor & Francis.

Example 2: Journal Article

- For a **journal** article, you need the following elements:

Author(s) (year of publication): Title of article. Title of journal volume number (issue number): Page numbers.

For example,

Authors of article: Labonte, R. Schrecker, T.

Year of publication: 2007

Title of **article**: Globalisation and social determinants of health

Title of **Journal**: *Globalisation and Health*

Volume: 3

Issue: 7

Pages: 190-200

Your reference would look like this:

Labonte, R., & Schrecker, T. (2007). Globalisation and social determinants of health. *Globalisation and Health* 3(7), 190-220.

End