

IIT KANPUR

The Power of Research: Using Literature Reviews

-Understanding the Importance,
Process, and Methodologies

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What is a Literature Review and why we need it ?

Literature Review is comprehensive summary of previous research on a topic.

How does it helps ?

Literature Review is a survey of scholarly sources on a specific topic.

Provides an overview of current knowledge.

Identifies Relevant theories, methods and Research gaps.



PURPOSE:-

- To provide a critical evaluation of the existing approach.
- To identify gaps, inconsistencies and new perspectives.
- Positions your work within the broader field
- Identifies strengths and weaknesses of existing research
- Helps you formulate your research question or hypothesis
- Prevents duplication of effort



For Students

Develops critical thinking skills

Enhances research and information literacy

Improves writing and communication skills

Strengthens arguments and analysis in academic work

Provides a foundation for future research endeavors

+ Benefits of literature review



- Saves time!
- Peer-review process acts as quality control
- Situates your research topic in the field
- Protocol of citing influential studies helps find related research
- Shows how other researchers have framed their questions
- Provides models of effective research methodology

The Literature Review Procedure:-

Define your research topic

Develop a research question or hypothesis

Search for relevant scholarly sources

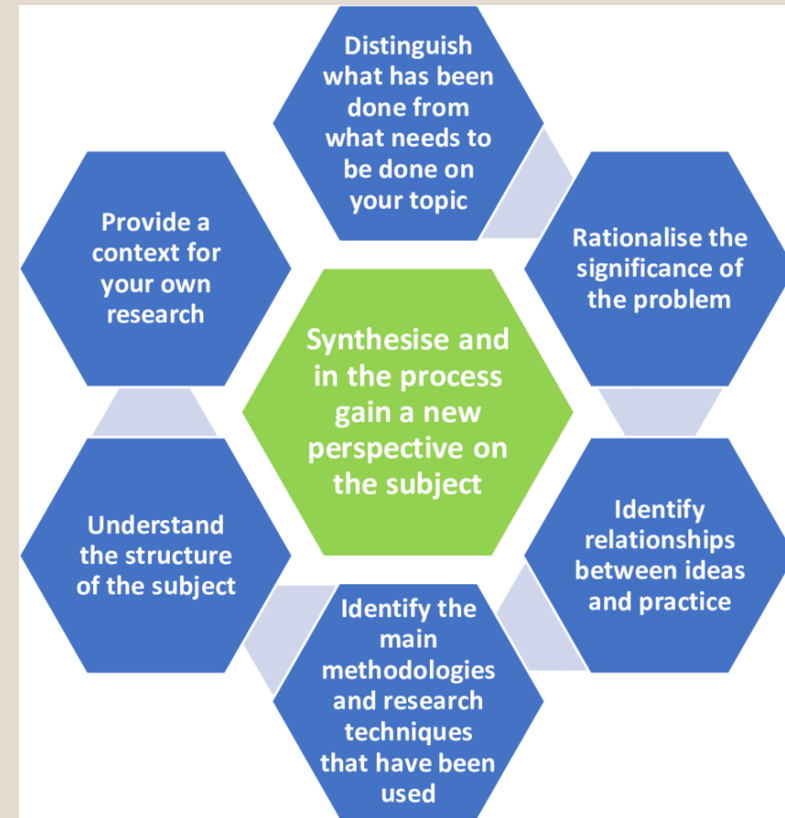
Evaluate the credibility and relevance of sources

Analyze and synthesize the information

Identify themes, debates, and research gaps

Organize your findings into a cohesive argument

Cite your sources properly



Literature Review

Do's and Dont's

Link every statement, or opinion to a source.	Do not state your own opinion.
Begin your paragraph with a source and make sure it links to all the statements.	Do not write a paragraph with statements and only put the source at the end.
Use your voice to guide the reader through the content.	Do not have no voice.
Introduce each section – use your voice.	Do not jump in without introductions.
Demonstrate that you are learning by reading the literature.	Do not write or transfer content just for the sake of it.
Ensure each section connects with your research aim & objectives.	Do not write random statements without logic or purpose.
Explain all diagrams and tables explicitly.	Do not leave your reader trying to interpret your table or diagram.
Read, read, and read again – tweaking is essential.	Do not give up near the end. Tweaking can make all the difference.
Check the number of pages/words required & all your references.	Do not lose marks because of this.

Ways to make Literature Review more impressive

1. Comprehensive Coverage

Thorough Search: Ensure you have covered all relevant studies by using multiple databases and sources.

Inclusion of Diverse Perspectives: Include studies from different regions, disciplines, and theoretical perspectives to provide a well-rounded review.

2. Thematic Organization

Logical Structure: Organize your review by themes, methods, or chronological order to make it easy to follow.

Clear Subheadings: Use clear and descriptive subheadings to guide the reader through your review.

3. Visual Aids

Use Figures and Tables: Summarize key findings, methodologies, or theoretical models in tables or figures.

Concept Maps: Create concept maps to illustrate relationships between studies, theories, and findings.

4. Identify Gaps and Future Directions

Highlight Gaps: Clearly identify gaps in the current research that need further exploration.

Suggest Future Research: Provide well-reasoned suggestions for future research directions based on the gaps identified.

Searching for literature :-

Databases and Resources:-

Academic databases: PubMed, JSTOR, Google Scholar, etc.

Libraries: University and public libraries.

Online repositories:
ResearchGate, Academia.edu.

Develop a list of keywords.

Define what studies will be included or excluded based on relevance, date, type of study e.t.c

Common Pitfalls to Avoid



- Lack of Focus: Ensure your review stays relevant to your research question.
- Poor Organization: Structure your review logically.
- Bias: Avoid cherry-picking studies that only support your hypothesis.
- Insufficient Critique: Critically evaluate sources rather than just summarizing them.
- Try to use more and more evidence for whatever abstract you write.

Conclusion :-

By following the mentioned procedure we can create an impressive Literature Review for our Research Purpose.

- Literature reviews are a cornerstone of academic research
- Equip you to navigate the existing knowledge in the field
- Strengthen your arguments and position the research effectively
- By following these steps, you can craft a compelling literature review that propels your academic journey





Thank you

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