UEL-CN-7000 Mental Wealth; Professional Life (Dissertation)

Weeks 7-9 – Reading Material

Presenting the Research/Dissertation

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The "middle period" of writing a dissertation might be thought of as starting after you've chosen your subject and method and begin working seriously and ending when you enter "write-up" mode.

The midway stage might be frightening. You need to have confidence that everything will work out because you can't yet see your dissertation taking shape. You might discover something fresh that demands to be read, only to realize that you've lost days reading it. You might discover that you've started a number of lines of inquiry and that your project is "diverging" rather than "converging" as a result. If you're working on a practical project, you can find that you obtain results that you weren't expecting and that you need to rearrange your ideas to account for them. Early on, you could think you have plenty of time to complete the task; but, you quickly come to the uncomfortable realization that the deadline is fast approaching. You could ask yourself at one time, "Have I taken on too much?" And if you're anything like the majority of other people in this circumstance, you probably notice that your emotions fluctuate. All of this may cause you to feel tense and under pressure. A little bit of pressure can excite you, but too much pressure combined with ambiguity will make you feel anxious, which is definitely not the best mental state for thinking clearly and producing your best work. You must, in essence, control the course of events. There are fortunately a lot of doable practical things you can do. You can assume the job of "managing" yourself, begin the literature survey procedure, and continue the literature review for your dissertation (Levin, 2012).

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Students will have a better understanding of the by the end of this week:

1. Be familiar with the methodology of literature reviews.

2. Establish and carry out a literature search

3. Control the data you gathered from your literature search.

4. Write a review of the literature.

BEING YOUR OWN MANAGER

Being your own manager entails keeping track of your development, planning your outcomes, and controlling your cognitive processes. I address these one by one.

Track your development Every day or two, check your dissertation calendar to determine if you're on pace, ahead of plan, or falling behind. Naturally, it is crucial to be aware of any progress so that you may either change the schedule or take action to catch up. Pay attention to the times when you are attempting to multitask. You need to step back from the day-to-day and decide what to keep doing and what to drop from your work schedule if you feel like things are spiraling out of control or diverging when they should be converging. Don't be afraid to make cuts, even if doing so means writing off some of the time and work you put into your project. You must occasionally exercise ruthlessness!

Prepare your conclusions in advance As soon as you reach the middle stage, begin planning your project's outcomes. By doing this, you keep your goal in sight. Making educated estimates about your potential conclusions is acceptable. You are effectively embarking on a voyage without even the most basic maps if you don't look ahead.

Control your thought patterns The act of thinking is fundamentally messy. Our minds wander, concepts and questions cross our minds, the events of the day are replayed in our minds, we think laterally, and we consider potential futures. We consider what we have seen, heard, or read while attempting to make sense of any apparent contradictions. We have to create a dissertation out of this disorganized process that is fundamentally linear and leads the reader through a logical development from Introduction to Conclusions (Berndtsson et al., 2008).

LITERATURE SURVEY PROCESS

A literature review serves as the project's first pillar. A literature search and a literature review are the two main parts of this survey. The process of finding, classifying, organizing, and processing the available research material is represented by the literature search. The literature review serves as a written representation of your comprehension, critical assessment, conceptualization, and presentation of the information you have acquired. Referencing is a talent that is intimately tied to both of these elements (Dawson, 2005). Figure 1 shows the steps involved in a literature review.
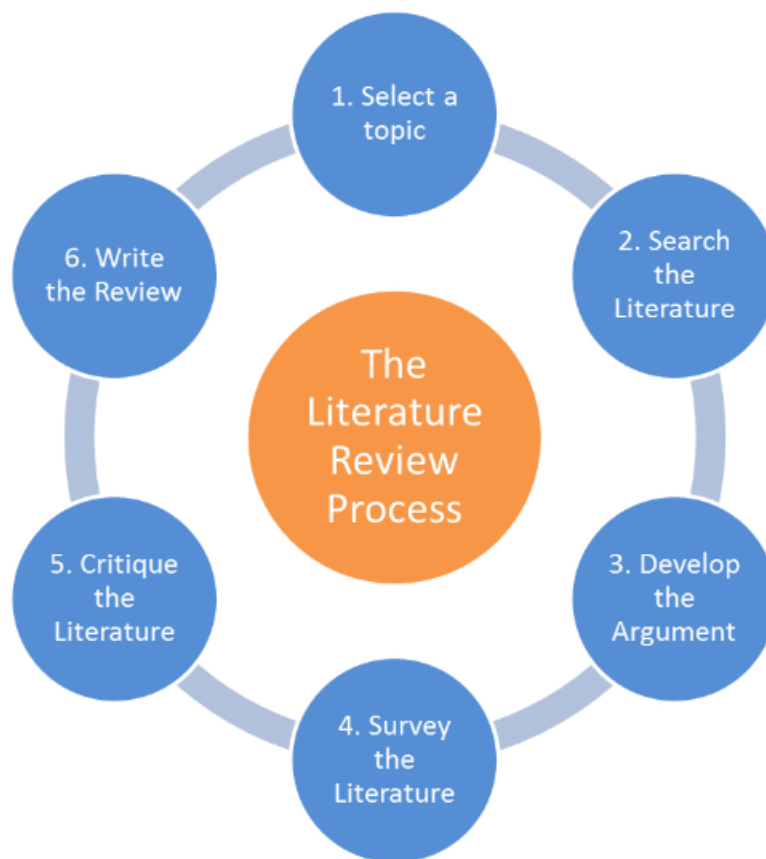
Figure 1 Literature Survey Process

A literature review introduces your project and fulfills a variety of functions:

- It demonstrates that your project is worthwhile and that the topic you are researching has significance. At the graduate level, you will also be able to demonstrate that your work is original and makes a contribution to the area, maybe by identifying a current gap in the literature that you plan to fill.

- By discussing and critically analyzing prior and current research in your field, it places your study in context. You will determine how your project fits inside and contributes to larger concerns through this contextualization. This will depend on the level of the project you are working on (undergraduate or postgraduate).

- It gives other researchers a place to start so they may pick up where you left off and understand how your topic changed over time and what literature is pertinent to your subject.

LITERATURE SEARCHING

A "systematic gathering of published information relevant to a subject" is what a literature search entails. This statement has two key terms that are underlined and need further explanation. The first is methodical. A organized and expert strategy should be taken when conducting a literature search rather than doing it on the fly. Reading anything you come across will get monotonous and is a waste of time in the end. It's critical to concentrate your literature search on the pertinent books, articles, and other sources. Naturally, when you initially start your literature search, you won't know what information is important and what is not. However, your emphasis will get more narrow as your borders get closer to your particular area of interest as you go through the literature survey procedure again and again. As a result, you should be aware of your limits and when to quit. You should try to narrow your search as much as you can, even if doing so at the

beginning of your project can be challenging. It can be difficult to know when to stop because you will likely still have many questions that you would like to have answered before continuing with the main part of your project. However, keep in mind that you won't actually cease looking for literature because you can continue be learning or accumulating information while working on other tasks till your assignment is finished.

The definition's second important term is made public. This suggests that you should be able to identify the material you trace. In other words, the content is not just a passage of unreferenced text you acquired from the Internet or someone's perspective you overheard in a hallway chat. Works that have undergone appropriate refereeing prior to publication are recognized works. In other words, they have been recognized as significant artifacts that contribute to the field and evaluated for their academic value by other "experts" in the field. The credibility of your project will be weakened if you just use information from online sources (like Wikipedia). While these sites can offer helpful summaries and context, you should aim to expand your literature search to peer-reviewed sources.

It is also important to remember that the abundance of material on your subject should not overwhelm you. You must exercise discernment and concentrate only on the books and articles that are particularly pertinent to your line of work. However, if you discover multiple books and articles that thoroughly discuss your particular subject area, it may be a sign that your subject target is still too broad and that you need to narrow it down even further (Dawson, 2005).

Information format There are many distinct formats in which literature is delivered. Some types are considered to be more "academically" useful and deserving than others, and some are more

accessible than others (see the points made on recognized works earlier). The types of materials you might come across throughout your literature search are summarized in the list below.

- Books will likely serve as the foundation of your literature review.

- Articles in journals that have undergone refereeing typically highlight current issues in their subject. Journal articles also have a tendency to focus on developments in specific, in-depth aspects of a certain topic.

- Articles and papers presented at national and international conferences are included in conference proceedings.

- Information from other sources is typically presented on CDs and DVDs in a more user-friendly way.

- Company reports and paperwork can give case studies useful information.

- Postgraduate program thesis is published reports or dissertations. They represent the output of a research degree and provide something to their specialized subject.

- Manuals could be a useful source of knowledge for technical computing tasks.

- You should purchase whatever software you need for your project as soon as you can, including reusable components, libraries, and software tools.

- Although the Internet is a useful resource for information, it should be used with caution.

Information Tracing Now that you are aware of the structure in which literature is provided, how can you actually identify the sources of this data? The library at your own university is the ideal spot to begin any literature search. Additionally, you ought to make full use of the librarians at your university who are knowledgeable about the fastest ways to track down specific information sources.

Important Literature Search Hints Finally, we offer some advice on conducting a literature search:

- As you read, make a note of any interesting quotes and their entire citation. When you create your report and try to locate your references afterwards, this will come in quite handy.

- Use books and review articles to aid your quest.

- Make a correct reference right away.

- Be aware of when to call it a day or, at the very least, move on to the next phase of your project.

- Your project strategy and the self-imposed research parameters will let you know this.

- Establish a method for cataloging and organizing the reading you do. The management of information is covered in more detail in the section that follows.

- Read eminent authorities and pioneering theories in your field.

- Before narrowing your search, start with a general search; avoid diving right into the most challenging recent article on your topic. The complexity of it seems to turn some people away (Levin, 2012).

WRITING LITERTAURE REVIEWS

You are now knowledgeable about your subject matter and the literature in the region you have selected. How do you use the literature you have collected for your literature review to demonstrate your understanding of your topic and lay the groundwork for your project? List the objectives of a literature review as a starting point for debate, including:

- to clarify your research aims and question;

- to draw attention to research opportunities that have either been expressly mentioned by other authors or may have been disregarded in the past;

- to refrain from reusing other people's work;

- to recognize research techniques and tactics that you could utilize for your own study.

A literature review should offer "a logical argument that leads to the description of a planned study," building on the aforementioned principles. This is accomplished by making references to previous and current literature in your field(s), and it will contain a discussion of any biases you may have seen as well as any present omissions. If all you do is study and absorb a bunch of books and articles about your topic, you won't be able to accomplish these goals. Your literature review will evolve through your critical assessment and comprehension of the pertinent material. The proper format for a literature review is shown in Figures 2 and 3. Figure 2 illustrates a specific area of research that a student would like to explore in their literature review. There are various books, articles, papers, documents, knowledge in people's heads, etc. that cover the world's understanding of this topic. This field would be explained in a literature review using the "furniture sales catalogue" approach, which would address each item (source of information) separately in a paragraph or section – for example:

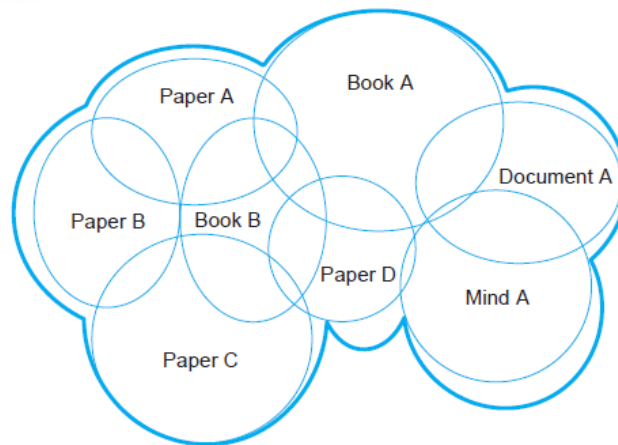- Book A: Covers . . . ,, Book B: Discusses . . . ,, Paper A: Introduces . . . ,

Figure 2 A body of knowledge composed of several journal articles, books, records, etc.
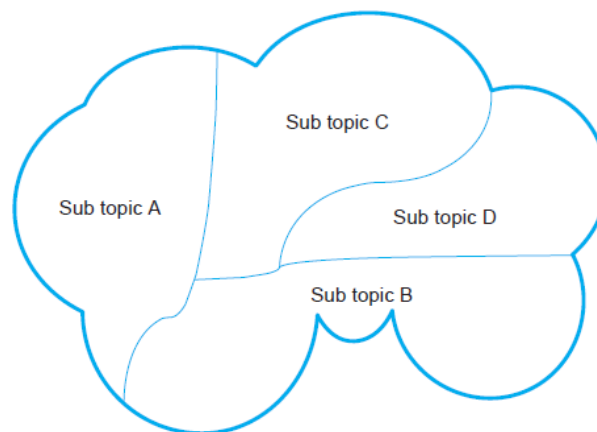

Figure 3 How a literature review may be organized and
present the topic area depicted in Figure 2

- Person A: Thinks . . . ,, and so on.

To display this information more effectively, consider the field as a collection of connected subtopics (your own interpretation and understanding of that field and how it is made up). As an illustration, Figure 3 illustrates one possible interpretation of the field in Figure 2. With this alternative viewpoint, the discipline can now be examined in a literature review using references as necessary to back up claims and explain the subjects covered.

Without making use of additional research in the topic, you won't be able to compose a literature review. Therefore, whenever necessary, references should be provided to back up your claims. They shouldn't be utilized to "show" that you have read (or, at the very least, obtained) a number of important books or to fill out your report. There aren't any clear-cut guidelines you may follow to produce the ideal literature review. Reading examples from the many books you will encounter will help you develop a sense of it. It is something that gets better with experience (Levin, 2012, Dawson, 2005).

SUMMARY

A literature review is a piece of academic writing that contextualizes and demonstrates knowledge of the academic literature on a given subject. It is considered a literature review rather than a literature report because it also involves a critical assessment of the sources. A literature review will support your project's inclusion in a certain field of research and help you situate it within a larger context. The two primary parts of your literature survey are the literature searches (supported by your capacity to organize the data you gather) and the literature review (which requires a critical understanding of material that you obtain). These steps are carried out repeatedly throughout time and (likely) in tandem with one another. Your literature review will continue to be performed throughout the lifetime of your project, to some extent, as you refine and consolidate the information you gather to keep your project current, even though you will eventually need to move on to the main investigation/development part of your project.

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