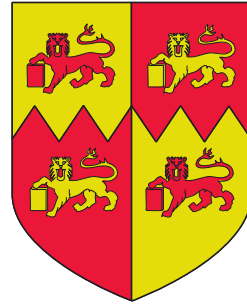


Ysgol Reolaeth  
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North Wales  
Management School

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PRIFYSGOL GLYNDŴR WRECSAM

WREXHAM GLYNDŴR UNIVERSITY

**CONL  
718**

**Dissertation**  
(Computing)

THEME 4 – Writing the Literature Review

# Overview

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To provide an understanding of the function and purpose of a literature review (the 'what')

To describe the role of a research-based critical literature review (the 'why')

To provide skills related to the various steps involved in conducting and presenting a thorough and systematic review of the literature (the 'how')

# Objectives

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## Function and purpose of a Literature Review

- To provide a clear and balanced picture of current leading concepts, theories, and data relevant to your topic or subject of study
- “Is a form of research that reviews, critiques, and synthesizes representative literature on a topic in an integrated way such that new frameworks and perspectives on the topic are generated”, (Toracco, 2005)
- Tells a story

## Role and Scope

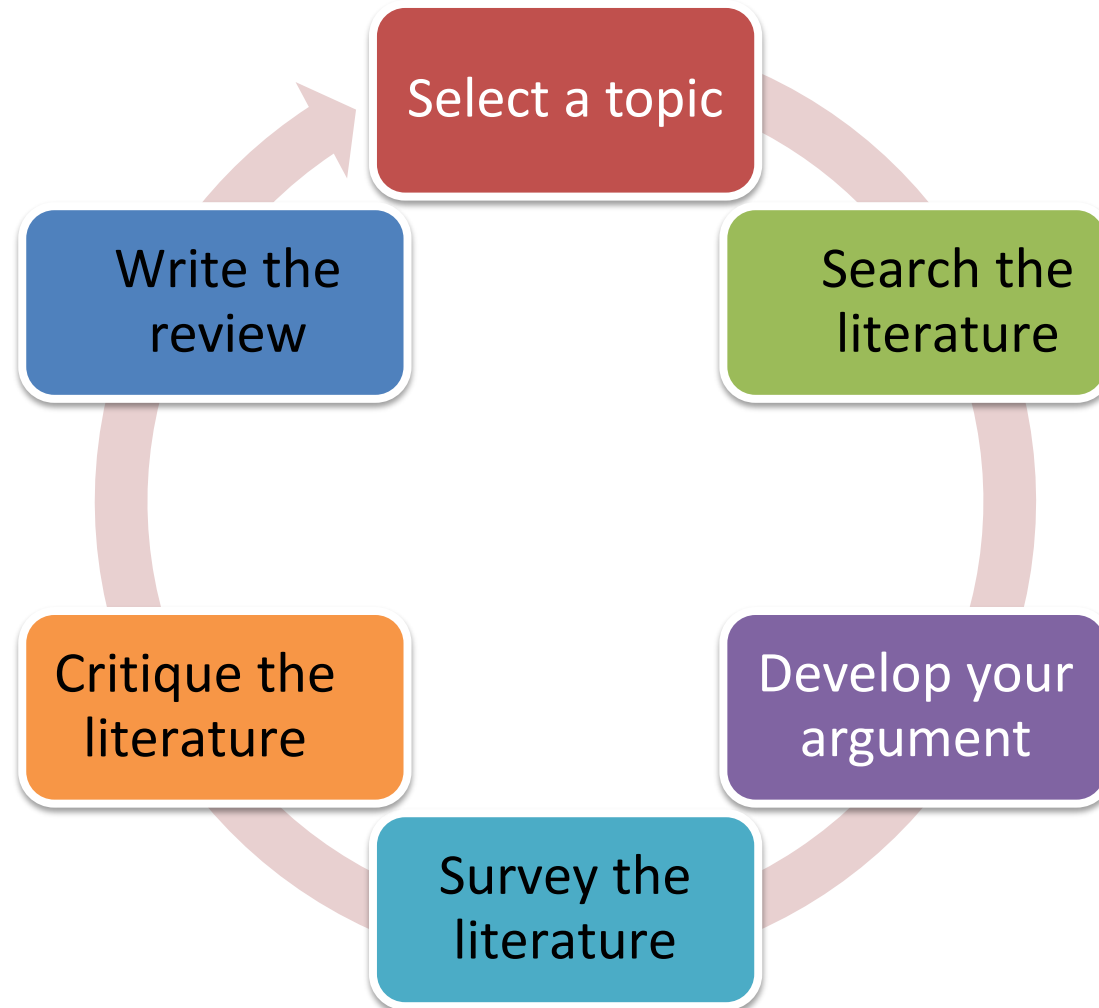
- To determine what has already been done that relates to your topic
- To understand what has been already said; how ideas have been researched, applied, and developed; the key issues; and the main criticisms that have been made regarding work on your topic.

## Preparing for the Literature Review

- Finding relevant material involves multiple strategies and a wide variety of sources

# The Process

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# Identify and retrieve literature

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•Search library catalogues/library stacks

Familiarize yourself with online databases and identify those that are relevant for your field of study

Develop parameters that will yield focused results by selecting valid keywords or descriptors and specifying a limited range of publication dates (go back 5–10 years)

Try out general descriptors and various combinations of sub-descriptors. In this way, your search is refined and all possible yields are covered

Search the Internet for relevant information and resources

From all the sources that you use, try to obtain both theoretical and empirical (research-based) literature

Make sure to include primary as well as secondary sources

Identify and include the relevant classic works and landmark studies related to your topic

Also seek review articles that provide “state of the art” scholarship on a particular topic. In other words, review as much up-to-date work as possible

In collecting literature, be prepared to refine your topic more narrowly

Keep control: From the beginning, develop a system for recording and managing material

At the end of the study, revisit online databases to check for any new literature that may have emerged

# Review and analyse the literature

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- Look for essential components in the literature

Extract and record information by asking systematic questions of the literature

Develop an analytic format and use it consistently

Write a short overview report on each piece of literature reviewed, including specific detailed information

For research articles, extract technical elements and establish tables or matrices

While analysing the specifics, be on the lookout for broader themes and issues

# Review and analyse the literature (2)

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Stage 1: Skim and read

- Skim the text first, note topic, structure, general reasoning, data and references
- Go back and skim the preface and introduction
- Identify the key parts of the text

Stage 2: Highlight and extract key elements

- What are the key theories, concepts, and ideas?
- What are the major debates, arguments, and issues surrounding the topic?
- What are the key questions and problems that have been addressed to date?
- Are there any important issues that have been insufficiently addressed or not addressed at all?

# Synthesis: Write the Review

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Organise separate elements as one integrated, creative whole

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Determine the patterns that have emerged, such as trends, similarities, and contradictions/ contrasts

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Identify themes and translate them into corresponding headings and subheadings

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Write a first draft

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Ensure that your argument flows logically and coherently, that it is written clearly, and is well supported by citations

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Test the draft by inviting/soliciting feedback from colleagues and advisors

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Edit, revise, and refine, incorporating feedback from others

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# Checklist

Do you have a clear introduction to this chapter that discusses the purpose, as well as how the chapter will be organized?

Does your overall review show a clear understanding and critique of each topic?

Is the review comprehensive?

Does it cover the major points of each topic?

Have you included historical as well as current coverage?

Is the review well organized?

Does the path of your argument flow logically?

Is the review analytical and critical, and not merely summative and descriptive?

Is there an introductory paragraph outlining the organization of the bodies of literature?

Are the methods for conducting the literature review sufficiently described?

Does the order of headings and subheadings seem logical?

Are there summary paragraphs at the end of each major section, as well as an overall summary at the end of the chapter?

Are there too many direct quotations that detract from the readability of the chapter?

Are all citations included in the reference list?

Have you checked your recommended style manual for format, punctuation, grammar, and correct use of citations, ie IEEE?

Have you edited and re-edited your work?

# To summarize

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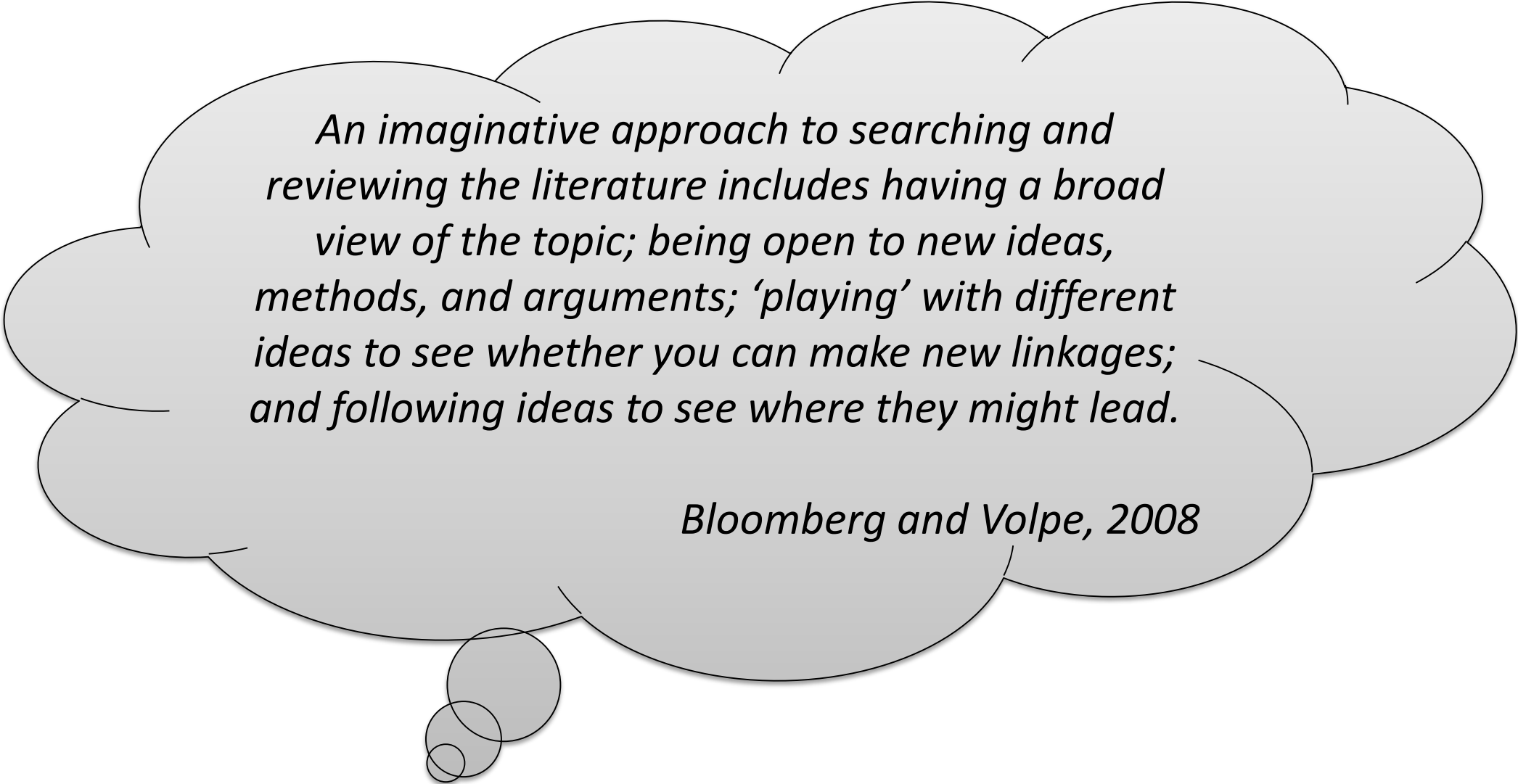
## What is a Literature Review

- Develops your understanding of the literature
- A synthesis
- A critical analysis and narrative

## What a Literature Review is NOT

- It is not an annotated bibliography
- It is not just a descriptive list
- It is not a basic summative report of what you have read

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*An imaginative approach to searching and reviewing the literature includes having a broad view of the topic; being open to new ideas, methods, and arguments; 'playing' with different ideas to see whether you can make new linkages; and following ideas to see where they might lead.*

*Bloomberg and Volpe, 2008*

# Additional Links

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## Link to the Wrexham Glyndwr Moodle site

- [https://students.glyndwr.ac.uk/home-2/learning-skills/academicskills/contact-us/learning\\_resources-literature\\_review/](https://students.glyndwr.ac.uk/home-2/learning-skills/academicskills/contact-us/learning_resources-literature_review/)
- <https://students.glyndwr.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Literature-Review.pdf>

## Research Gate

- [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/311735510\\_Writing\\_a\\_Literature\\_Review\\_Research\\_Paper\\_A\\_step-by-step\\_approach](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/311735510_Writing_a_Literature_Review_Research_Paper_A_step-by-step_approach)

## Manchester Metropolitan University

- <https://libguides.mmu.ac.uk/literaturereviews>