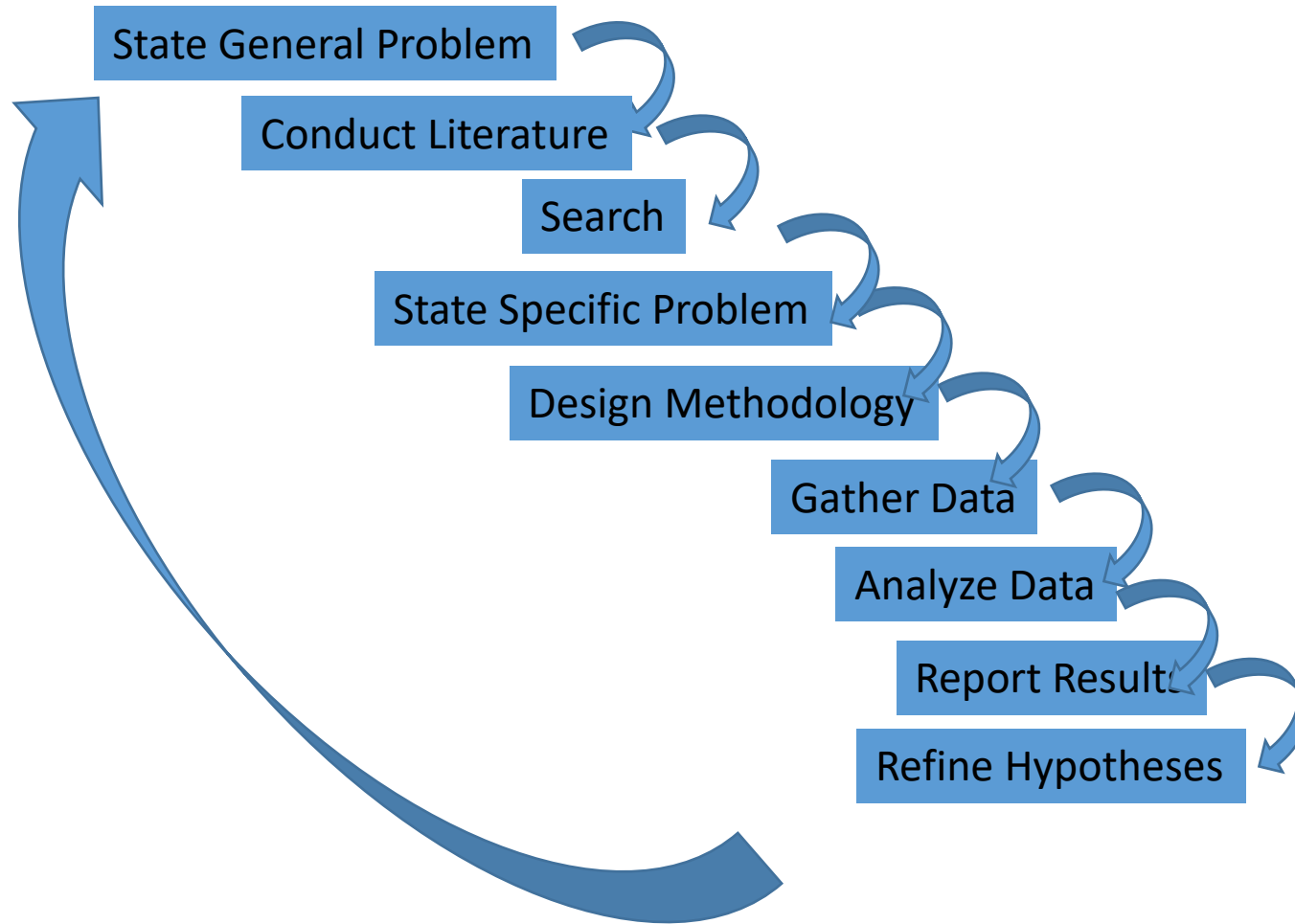# Review Literatures

Session Objectives

- To understand how to search relevant literatures.
- To understand the objectives of reviewing literatures
- To understand the processes of reviewing literatures.
- To understand the components of literature to be reviewed.
- To understand the state-of-the-art literatures related to the problem statement.

General Research Process

- State General Problem
- Conduct Literature Search
- State Specific Problem
- Design Methodology
- Gather Data
- Analyze Data
- Report Results
- Refine Hypotheses

Topic in the Mind Map

State General Problem

Conduct Literature

Search

State Specific Problem

Design Methodology

Gather Data

Analyze Data

Report Results

Refine Hypotheses

What is a Literature Review?

- It is a surveys of scholarly articles, books and other sources (e.g. dissertations, journal, conference proceedings) relevant to a particular issue, area of research, or theory

- Textbook, magazine, Bulletin are not suggested? Why? They are mostly outdated and some not peer reviewed

- It is providing a description, summary, and critical evaluation of each work (each research article)

- The purpose is to offer an overview of significant literatures published on a topic (overview the state-of-the-art).

What Is Literature Review

- **Literature review** is a body of text that aims to review the critical points of current knowledge on a particular topic.

- Most often associated with science-oriented literature, such as a thesis, the literature review usually precedes a research proposal, methodology and results section.

- Its ultimate goal is to bring the reader up to date with current literature on a topic and forms the basis for another goal, such as the justification for future research in the area.

- A good literature review is characterized by: a logical flow of ideas; current and relevant references with consistent, appropriate referencing style; proper use of terminology; and an unbiased and comprehensive view of the previous research on the topic.

Literature Review

- According to Cooper (1988) "a literature review uses as its database reports of primary or original scholarship, and does not report new primary scholarship itself.

- The primary reports used in the literature may be verbal, but in the vast majority of cases reports are written documents.

- The types of scholarship may be empirical, theoretical, critical/analytical, or methodological in nature.

- A literature review seeks to describe, summarize, evaluate, clarify and/or integrate the content of primary reports".

How to Find Relevant Literatures?

- Search with the key-word of the research topic.
  - Use broader key-word (term) if the documents retrieved are few or none.
  - o Use narrower key-word if the documents retrieved are too much.
  - Use synonym or related terms to enhance the search
  - Employ Boolean operator: AND, OR, NOT to control the search
- **Pick the most recent and related article to start with**.
- Start look for another related articles through:–
  - New search terms found in the related articles
  - List of references in the chosen article

The Objectives of Reviewing Literatures?

- **Place each work** (research article) in the context of its contribution to the understanding of the subject under review

- **Describe the relationship** of each work to the others under consideration

- **Identify new ways to interpret,** and shed light on any gaps in, previous research

- **Resolve conflicts** amongst seemingly contradictory previous studies

- **Identify areas of prior scholarship** to prevent duplication of

- **Point the way forward** for further research

- **Place one's original work** (in the case of theses or dissertations) in the context of existing literature

Why do a literature review?

- To identify gaps in the literature
- To avoid reinventing the wheel (at the very least this will save time and it can stop you from making the same mistakes as others)
- To identify methods that could be relevant to your project
- To carry on from where others have already reached (reviewing the field allows you to build on the platform of existing knowledge and ideas)
- To identify other people working in the same fields (a researcher network is a valuable resource)
- To increase your breadth of knowledge of your subject area

Why do a literature review?

- To identify similar works in your area
- To provide the intellectual context for your own work, enabling you to position your project relative to other work
- To identify opposing views
- To put your work into perspective
- To demonstrate that you can access previous work in an area
- To identify information and ideas that may be relevant to your project

Stages **of** Literature Reviews

- Problem formulation—which topic or field is being examined and what are issues?

- Literature search—finding materials relevant to the subject being explored

- Data evaluation—determining which literature makes a significant contribution to the understanding of the topic

- Analysis and interpretation—discussing the findings and conclusions of pertinent literature

Elements of Literature to Review

- An overview of the subject, issue or theory under consideration, along with the objectives of the literature review

- Division of works under review into categories (e.g. those in support of a particular position, those against, and those offering alternative theses entirely)

- Explanation of how each work is similar to and how it varies from the others

- Conclusions as to which pieces are best considered in their argument, are most convincing of their opinions, and make the greatest contribution to the understanding and development of their area of research

How to Review Literatures?

- Compare: try to find the similarities among literatures

    Explain how each article similar to the others.

- Contrast: try to find the differences among literatures

    Explain how each article differ to the others

- Criticize: put your own opinion on what is written in the literatures

    Criticize the strength and weakness of the research

- Synthesize: combine several literatures into an idea

- Summarize: restate the article with your own words in a concise way

Where to Place Your Literature Review?

- Usually it's placed at Chapter 2 of your thesis or dissertation

- A literature review may constitute an essential chapter of a thesis or dissertation

- Literature review should logically connected to research problems, research methodology, analysis and conclusion.

Getting Started

- Like many tasks, reading and starting to write review literature usually seems worst before you begin

 So you should make a start

1. First make up an outline—just sit and type points to review

2. Organization. It is encouraging and helpful to start a filing system

3. Timetable. a list of dates for when you will give the first and second drafts

4. Iterative. it is easier, however, to improve something that is already written than to produce text from nothing

Points to Consider When Reviewing a Literature... (source University Library, University of California)

- **Provenance**—What are the author's credentials? Are the author's arguments supported by evidence (e.g. primary historical material, case studies, narratives, statistics, recent scientific findings)?

- **Objectivity**—Is the author's perspective even-handed or prejudicial? Is contrary data considered or is certain pertinent information ignored to prove the author's point?

- **Persuasiveness**—Which of the author's theses are most/least convincing?

- **Value**—Are the author's arguments and conclusions convincing?

- Does the work ultimately contribute in any significant way to an understanding of the subject?

Points to Discuss in Literature Review: Among others

- What is the problem and why is it important?
- Is the problem clearly defined?
- Try to state the problem as simply as you can
- Is the research methodology well stated?
- How's the data being created and manipulated?
- Is the manipulated data sufficiently interpreted?
- What is the contribution of the study?
- Is the conclusion related to the problems?
- Is the evidence sufficient enough to support conclusion?
- Etc.

Benefits of Doing Literature Review

- To avoid the ambiguity of research problems
- To ensure the chosen research problems are researchable
- To depict the "intellectual environment" of the research problems
- To acknowledge the intellectual social network related to the research problems

For Proposal Document_Group Assignment (Due End of term)

- Determine a general research problem
- Search literatures related to research problem
- Evaluate documents retrieved
- Determine relevant documents
- Enhance general research problem into several specific research problems (research questions)
- Extend the literature search
- Form a mosaic of body of literatures related to research topic.