

Introduction

In this next stage of the project, you will conduct a **literature review** by researching and reviewing papers and technical articles related to the same problem you have chosen.

This interim report is a significant step in your project, as it is needed to justify the selected topic and the proposed methodology. A literature review report should demonstrate your skills in searching, to show your awareness of the field you chose and your understanding of the problem you will (re)solve. The literature report should fully answer these questions

- What do you already know about the topic?
- What do you have to say critically about what is already known?
- Has anyone else ever done anything exactly the same?
- Has anyone else done anything that is related?
- Where does your work fit in with what has gone before?
- Why is your research worth doing in the light of what has already been done?

(Silverman, 2017)

If you choose to replicate an existing study, you may need to highlight the similarities and differences between the replicated research and your analyses. For example, suppose you decided to replicate study X. In that case, you need to stress whether you will be applying the same set of research questions, using a different time frame of the datasets, following the same approach, or conducting similar analyses. Nevertheless, you might need to compare your outcome with the actual results of the replicated research.

Topics and Learning Objectives

Topics

- Defining the problem under study
- Describing the working dataset and any imposed constraints
- Relating the selected topic to the body of knowledge
- Comparing the proposed methodology with what other practitioners/researchers did in the past

Learning Objectives

By the end of the module, you will be able to:

- Explain the problem under study
- Comment on what has been already conducted and analyzed concerning the selected theme
- Specify how your proposed work fits in with past research according to the literature review
- List the implication of answering the tentative research questions

Conducting a Literature Review

“A literature review is a critical analysis and review of published literature on a certain topic or research question. It is specifically designed to examine, analyze, and critique scholarly writings that are related to and around a research question or topic. The purpose of a literature review is to represent the literature that surrounds a particular topic and shows resemblance between the works you have researched and your research question” (Ryerson University Library and Archives, n.d.).

Explore more on what a literature review is and other resources through:

- The [Ryerson University Library](#)
- The [Faculty of Community Services, Academic Support and Resource Centre](#)

The five basic steps involved in a literature review should be considered:

- [Defining research questions](#)
- [Introducing the approach](#)
- [Searching the literature](#)
- [Analyzing materials](#)
- [Managing results](#)

(Note: In the RULA webpage, proceed through each step using the navigation menu on the left of your screen.)

Writing Your Report

Once your research is completed, use this [Ryerson report template](#) to write your review; provide a description of your data and the approach that you will use in this project.

Although it is not preferable to include the source code in the document, it would be best to provide a proper link to your project account on the [GitHub repository](#).

Assessments

Literature Review, Data Description, and Approach (25% of your final grade)

The literature review report should include:

- A cover page that includes your name, student number, supervisor's name, and date of submission
- A revised version of the submitted abstract
- At least six pages answering the questions listed earlier in the introduction section
- A brief descriptive statistics of the selected datasets
- A link to a repository on GitHub website where codes and results are uploaded
- A graph showing the tentative overall methodology
- A references page, listing at least six documented articles, following the APA style

This assignment is due by 11:59 p.m. ET on Monday of Week 6. Submit your assignment to the D2L “Literature Review, Data Description, and Approach” assignment link. Late submissions will be penalized with 10% loss a day, up to a maximum of five business days. After five business days, it is up to the designated supervisor to accept or reject your submission. In the case of acceptance, the submission should be marked out of 50%.

References

- Ryerson University Library and Archives. (n.d.). [Literature reviews](https://learn.library.ryerson.ca/literaturereview). Retrieved from <https://learn.library.ryerson.ca/literaturereview>
- Silverman, D. (2017). *Doing qualitative research* (5th ed.). Sage Publications Ltd.