

THE BIG PICTURE

Writing an Effective Literature Review

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THE BIG PICTURE

- What is a literature review?
- How do I begin?
- How do I write it?
- How do I reference it?
- Conclusions



What is a Literature Review?

- Surveys published work relevant to particular issue, area of research, or theory
- Provides short description & critical evaluation of work critical to topic
- Offers overview of significant literature published on topic.



Adapted from Lyons 2005

What is a Literature Review?

It is not:

- A list or annotated bibliography
- A simple summary of literature or paraphrases of the works
- Confined to description
- Narrow & shallow
- Confusing & longwinded
- Constructed arbitrarily.



What is a Literature Review?

It is :

- A critical evaluation
- A synthesis of available research
- Broad & deep/Clear & concise
- Rigorous & consistent in its approach
- Guided by a defined concept
- A critical piece of discursive prose.



What is a Literature Review?

Summary vs Synthesis

Summary is a recap of important information

Synthesis is a re-organization, or weaving, of that information

- It might give new interpretation of old material or combine new with old
- It might trace intellectual progression of field, including major debates.



What is a Literature Review for?

- Shows you are familiar with research area & your work is credible
- Places research in context & demonstrates its relevance by making connections to a body of knowledge
- Points out where prior studies agree & disagree & where major questions remain
- Collects what is known up to a point in time & indicates direction for future research.



What is a Literature Review?

Systematic vs Narrative Review

Systematic Review:

- Purpose to evaluate & interpret all available relevant research evidence
- Differs from narrative review - previous work not only described but systematically identified, assessed for quality & synthesized
- Usually involves meta-analysis
- Usually used in evidence based health/medicine.

Narrative Review:

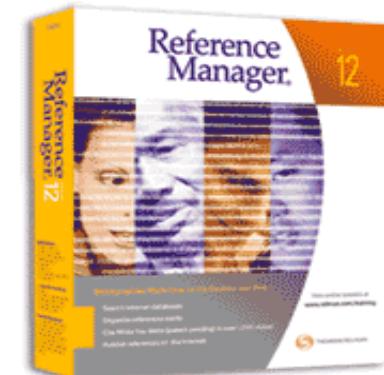
- More usual form of review tailored by its relevance to your research question & theories.



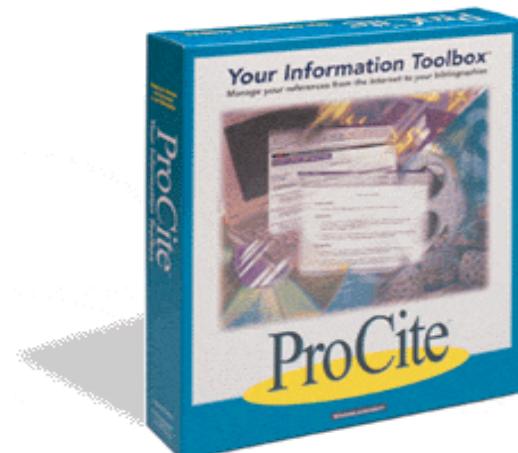
Citation Management Tools

- Managing references you find for your review takes work
- Using a citation management tool will save you time & effort
 - Organize & store references
 - Make in-text citations based on required style
 - Create a list of references based on required style.

ENDNOTE®



 RefWorks



What should you read?

As you define problem you will more easily be able to decide what to read and what to ignore

- But before hundreds of sources seem relevant
- Can't define problem until you read around research area
- A vicious circle
- But, what should happen is that as you read you define problem, and as you define problem you will more easily be able to decide what to read & what to ignore.



Adapted from Asian Institute of Technology

How to Read a Journal Article

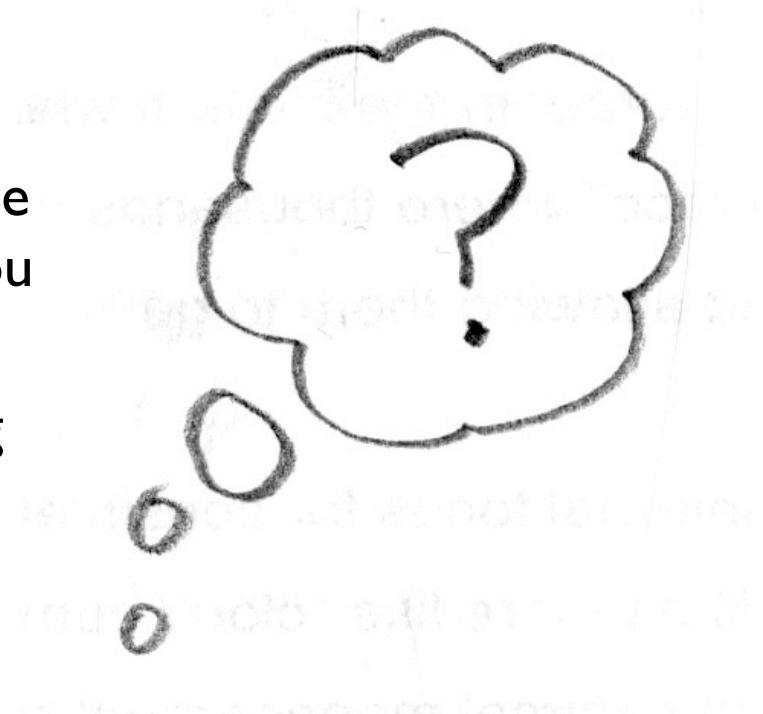
**Always read with a pen in
your hand.**



How to Read a Journal Article

Thinking ahead

- The more you learn, the more questions come to mind
- Keep a list of questions & hypotheses that come to your mind or that are mentioned in what you read. These will:
 - help guide you when you're constructing your review
 - guide you in discussing implications of your own findings.

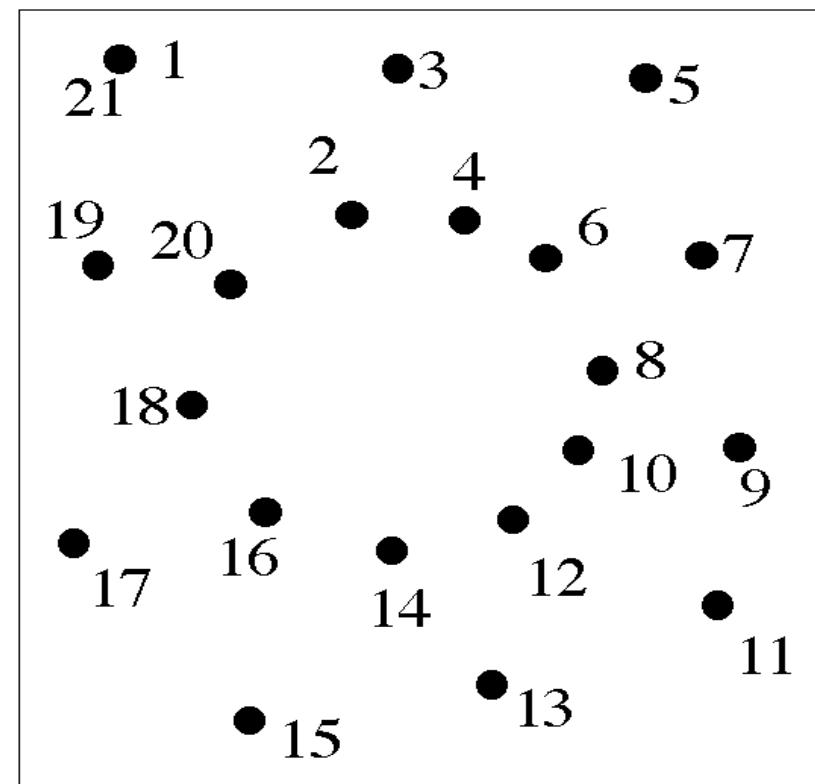


Adapted from Mauch & Birch, 2003

How to Read a Journal Article

As you read different papers:

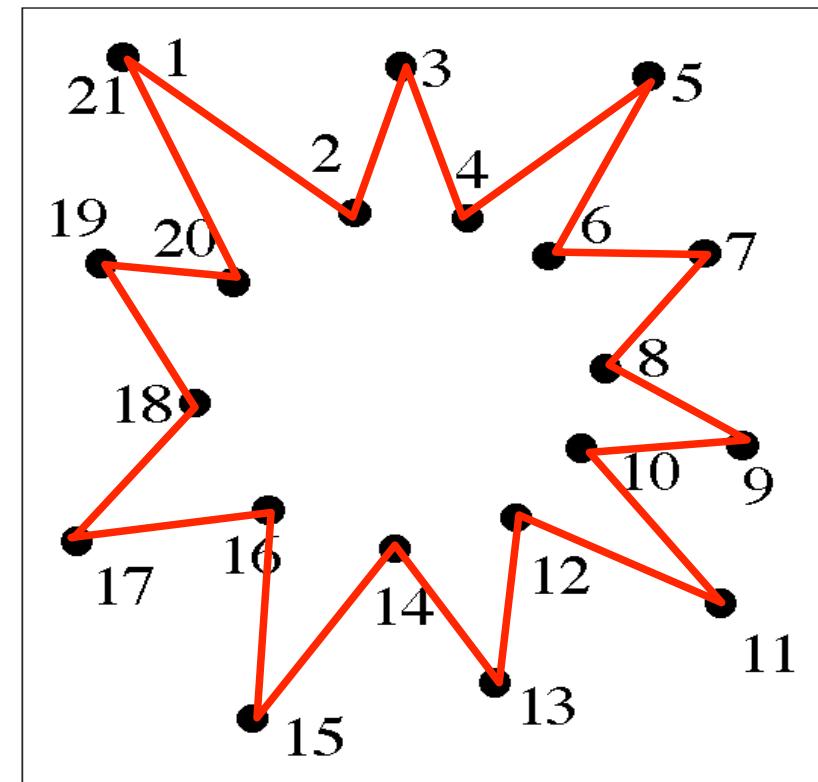
- Look for themes
- Find common ground
- Uncover differences
- Identify controversy
- Seek out gaps
- Join the dots.



How to Read a Journal Article

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Deficiencies noted by examiners

- Literature Review second most deficient aspect of theses
- Most common criticisms: Failure to use recent literature & an inability to critically assess existing literature
- Lengthy; irrelevant; outdated; tedious; repetitive; bewildering; & flabbergasting.



Adapted from K. Samuelowicz and Hansford & Maxwell, 1993

Deficiencies noted by examiners

- Exclusion of landmark studies
- Emphasis on outdated material
- Adopting a parochial perspective
- Not discriminating between relevant & irrelevant materials
- Lacking synthesis.



Adapted from K. Samuelowicz and Hansford & Maxwell, 1993

What should you write?

☞ Literature reviews should comprise the following elements:

- Introduction
- Body
- Conclusion



Introduction

Must tell reader the following:

- Scope of review - what you are going to cover
- Establish your position (point of view) from which you are reviewing literature
- How review ties in with research topic.



Adapted from Study & Learning Centre, RMIT

Introduction

Many theories have been proposed to explain what motivates human behaviour. Although the literature covers a wide variety of such theories, this review will focus on five major themes which emerge repeatedly throughout the literature reviewed. These themes are: incorporation of the self-concept into traditional theories of motivation, the influence of rewards on motivation, the increasing importance of internal forces of motivation, autonomy and self-control as sources of motivation and narcissism as an essential component of motivation. Although the literature presents these themes in a variety of contexts, this paper will primarily focus on their application to self-motivation.

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Topic sentence – identifies 5 major themes as the scope of review

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5 major themes to be covered

Introduction

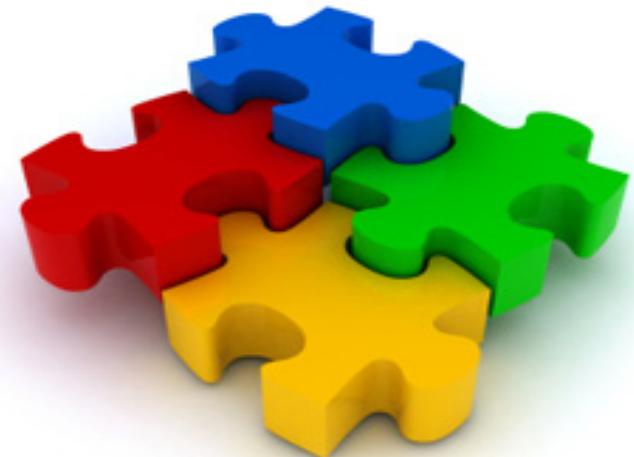
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Concluding sentence – specifies focus

Body

Need to integrate:

- arguments from different sources & link them together
- your own analysis & interpretation. Analysis is not just your opinion, it needs to be supported by the literature.



Body

Integrate arguments from multiple sources

Most early theories of motivation were concerned with need satisfaction. Robbins, Millet, Cacioppe and Waters-Marsh (1998) argued that motivation relies on what a person needs and wants. Similarly, the early theories of Maslow and McGregor (Robbins et al 1998) focussed on personal needs satisfaction as the basis for motivational behaviour. However, recent studies outlined by Leonard, Beauvais and Scholl (1999) suggest that personality and disposition play an equally important role in motivation. Current thinking does not discount these theories, but simply builds on them to include a self-concept.

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Topic sentence – outlining your main claim or key point for that paragraph

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Supporting evidence from the literature

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Contrasting theories from the literature

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Integrate arguments from multiple sources

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Concluding sentence - linking to the next paragraph

Body

Integrate your analysis and interpretation

By its very nature, motivation requires a degree of individual satisfaction or narcissism. Robbins, Millet, Cacioppe and Waters-Marsh (1998) suggest that motivation has as its very basis the need to focus on, and please, the self. This is supported by Shaw, Shepard and Waugaman (2000) who contend that this narcissistic drive is based on the human effort to find personal significance in life. It can be argued that the desire to improve one's status is a highly motivational force, and is central to the idea of narcissistic motivation. The narcissistic motivational strategies put forward by Shaw et al (2000) are concerned with motivation for life in general, but they may also have applications in the context of work. These strategies, with their focus on personal needs, demonstrate that narcissism is an essential component of motivation.

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First statement of evidence from the literature

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Second statement of evidence from the literature

Body

Integrate your analysis and interpretation

By its very nature, motivation requires a degree of individual satisfaction or narcissism. Robbins, Millet, Cacioppe and Waters-Marsh (1998) suggest that motivation has as its very basis the need to focus on, and please, the self. This is supported by Shaw, Shepard and Waugaman (2000) who contend that this narcissistic drive is based on the human effort to find personal significance in life. **It can be argued that the desire to improve one's status is a highly motivational force, and is central to the idea of narcissistic motivation.** The narcissistic motivational strategies put forward by Shaw et al (2000) are concerned with motivation for life in general, but they may also have applications in the context of work. These strategies, with their focus on personal needs, demonstrate that narcissism is an essential component of motivation.

Student analysis

Body

Integrate your analysis and interpretation

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Concluding statement

Body – Good Writing

This paper brings together work in two areas of motivation. According to Robbins, Millett, Cacioppe and Waters-Marsh (1998) the early theories of motivation were concerned with need satisfaction. Current thinking, however, does not discount these theories, but simply builds upon them, to include a self-concept. Leonard, Beauvais and Scholl (1999) argue that there are three elements to self-perception. They propose that.... These three elements can be seen as a further development of Eunson's original concept of 'money as motivator'.

Body – Good Writing

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Shows ability to connect two authors' ideas

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Shows further reading

Body – Good Writing

This paper brings together work in two areas of motivation. According to Robbins, Millett, Cacioppe and Waters-Marsh (1998) the early theories of motivation were concerned with need satisfaction. Current thinking, however, does not discount these theories, but simply builds upon them, to include a self-concept. Leonard, Beauvais and Scholl (1999) argue that there are three elements to self-perception. They propose that.... These three elements can be seen as **a further development** of Eunson's original concept of 'money as motivator'.

Shows a deeper development of analysis

Body – Bad Writing

During the past decade, many researchers have shown interest in motivation. Their findings are reported here. Smith (1995) developed a model investigation conducted on...(paragraph describes Smith's model)...

Jones (1998) asserts that...(this paragraph says what Jones asserted)
...

Hoey (1998) makes a clear distinction between...(this paragraph states what Hoey says)....

Body – Bad Writing

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Jones (1998) asserts that...(this paragraph says what Jones asserted)
...

Hoey (1998) makes a clear distinction between...(this paragraph states what Hoey says)....

All this does is lead to paragraphs that just describe, not critically synthesise and evaluate. No argument is integrated into the review.

Writing it up – grammar

Sentences

Express one idea per sentence. Ensure all your sentences have a subject, verb & object.



Paragraphs

Group sentences that express & develop one aspect of your topic. Use a new paragraph for another aspect or another topic.

Consistency

Use sentences & paragraphs with appropriate use of punctuation. Incorrect punctuation can affect the meaning.



Exclamation marks

Never, never, never use these.

Structuring the review

“Examiners appreciate work which is logically presented, focused, succinct, and in which signposts are used to help readers to understand the path they are taking through the work ...

One of the problems with work that is poorly presented is that the examiner tends to lose confidence in the candidate and can become suspicious that there are deeper problems of inadequate and rushed conceptualisation.”

Johnson, 1997 p.345 in Mullins & Kiley 2002

Referencing

- You need to reference your sources as evidence of your academic integrity
- Failing to cite your sources is plagiarism
- Referencing is very important when: paraphrasing and summarising the ideas / words / works of others/ quoting directly from a source.



Plagiarism

Appropriation of another person's ideas, processes, results, or words without giving appropriate credit.

“The simple rule to avoid plagiarism:
Anything you didn’t personally write, gather, experience or create needs to be cited in the text and in a reference list.”



Timothy Goss, Grantham University

Referencing

Two main systems of in text citations:

- Harvard : Name & Date
- Vancouver: Number
- Many variations of systems.



Referencing

- If in doubt – reference it
- Rigidly follow publisher's or institutions rules on reference format & style.

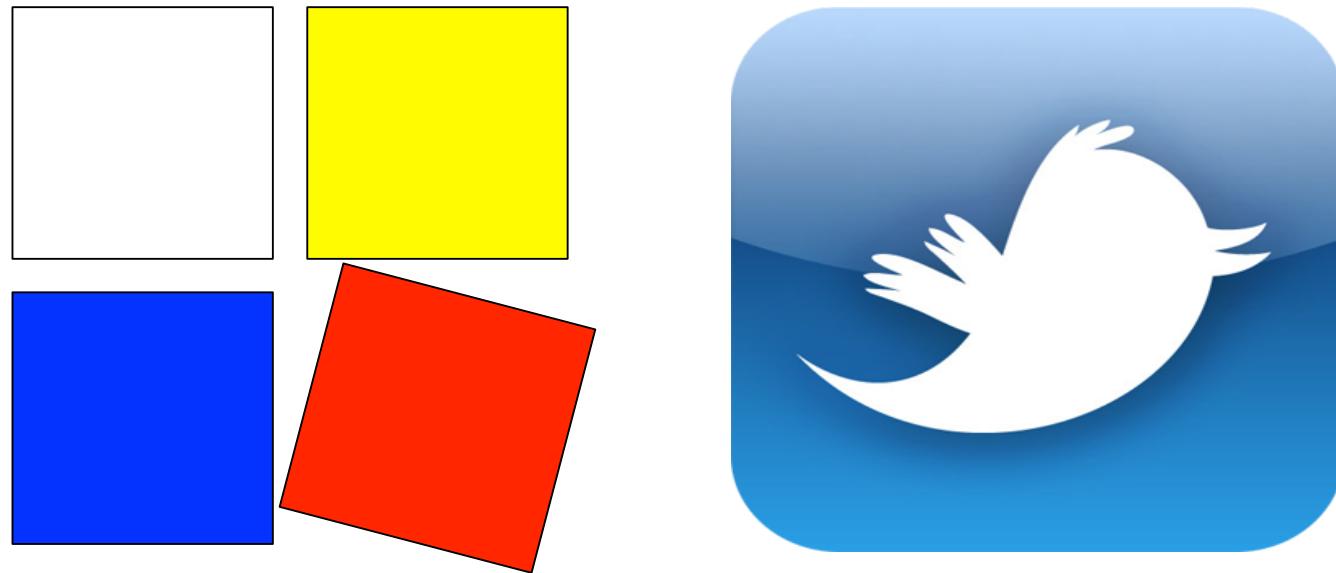


Conclusions

- Read selectively & efficiently
- Keep track of references
- Review should interpret, synthesise & identify gaps in the literature
- Review should not be a laundry list
- Start early – read, write, revise
- Don't use exclamation marks.



The Business of Discovery



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