

How to Write a Literature Review

A **literature review** explains what other researchers or developers have already done that is related to your project.

Step 1: Find Related Studies

Look for:

- Journal articles
- Research papers
- Books
- Trusted online sources

These should be related to your project (e.g., hospital systems, voting systems, security systems, etc.).

Step 2: Summarize the Existing Work

For each study, explain:

- What the study/system was about
 - What problem it solved
 - What methods or technologies were used
- Do **not** copy and paste. Use your own words.

Step 3: Identify Gaps

Explain:

- What is missing in the existing systems
- What limitations they had
- What your project will improve or do differently

This helps justify **why your project is important**.

Step 4: Link to Your Project

End the literature review by clearly explaining:

- How your project relates to the reviewed studies
- How your project addresses the identified gaps

Example Literature Review:

Project Title: Hostel Management System

1. Introduction to the Literature Review

Several studies and systems have been developed to manage hostel operations such as student registration, room allocation, fee management, and record keeping. A hostel management system is designed to reduce manual work, improve accuracy, and enhance efficiency in managing hostel activities. This literature review discusses existing systems related to hostel management and identifies gaps that this project aims to address.

2. Review of Existing Studies and Systems

Eweoya et al. (2025) developed a web-based Hostel Management System (HMS) to streamline several hostel operations including student registration, room allocation, maintenance, and reporting. Their system provided real-time access to critical information and improved transparency and accountability in hostel operations. This study highlighted that digital systems can significantly enhance the efficiency of hostel administration compared to traditional manual methods.

Similarly, Diyaolu et al. (2024) presented an e-based hostel management system that shifted hostel record keeping from manual files to a computerized platform, using HTML, PHP, and MySQL. Their system helped administrators access records easily, reduced manual workload, and improved the reliability of hostel operations.

Other studies like Waibi (2022) developed a web-based platform to help students identify and apply for hostels online while automatically managing room allocation and record maintenance showing that digital systems can replace manual processes successfully.

3. Identified Gaps in Existing Systems

From the reviewed literature, it is evident that many existing hostel management systems focus mainly on record keeping and room allocation. However, most systems lack:

- Proper role-based access for students, wardens, and administrators
- Real-time room availability updates
- Online complaint and maintenance request tracking
- Notification features to inform students about room allocation or announcements

These limitations reduce the effectiveness of the systems in fully managing hostel activities.

4. Relation to the Proposed System

The **proposed Hostel Management System** aims to address the gaps identified above by providing:

- **Role-based access control** for students, administrators, and wardens.
- **Real-time room availability and maintenance status updates.**
- **Online complaint registration and tracking** with notification alerts.
- **A user-friendly interface** for both web and mobile users.

By integrating these additional features, the proposed system not only automates traditional hostel tasks but also improves communication, transparency, and service quality for all stakeholders. Its design builds on the strengths of existing solutions while enhancing the overall management experience.

References (APA Style)

- Diyaolu, A. M., Abodunrin, O. B., Adedamola, A. A., Ogunode, R. S., & Omoloba, O. (2024). *Development of an e-based hostel management system*. *International Journal of Innovative Science and Research Technology (IJISRT)*.
- Eweoya, I., Awoniyi, A., Adeniyi, O., Okesola, K., Udosen, A., Adigun, T., Fatade, O., & Amusa, A. (2025). *Development of web-based hostel management system*. *British Journal of Computer, Networking and Information Technology (BJCNIT)*.
- Waibi, Z. (2022). *Web-based hostel management system* [Undergraduate Dissertation]. Makerere University Repository.