

JOSEPHINE E. PETRALBA

"It is often the lack of a clearly articulated theoretical framework - or weak theorizing in general-that results ... [in rejection] by publication outlets"

Merriam,

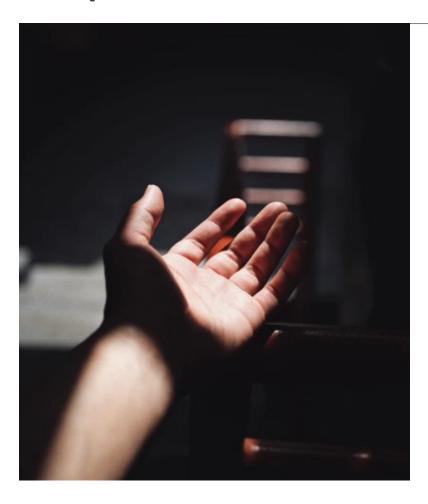
2001

Locate (How to find relevant citations in an Endless Literature)



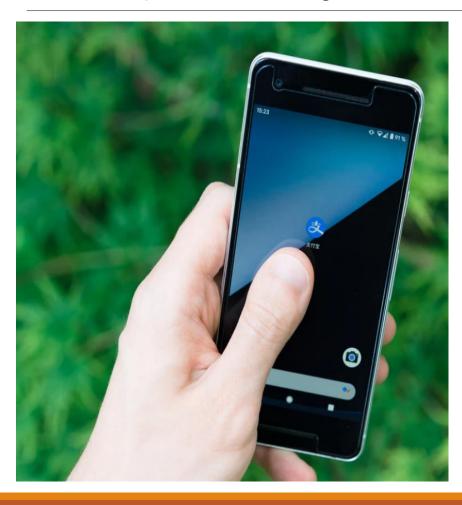
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- Title
- Abstract
- Introduction
- Summary and Conclusion
- Whole Paper

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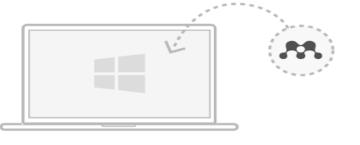
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"Connect your ideas to the literature"
"Survey the literature on the topic"

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The Literature

a collection of all the scholarly writings on a topic

Scholarly Articles

















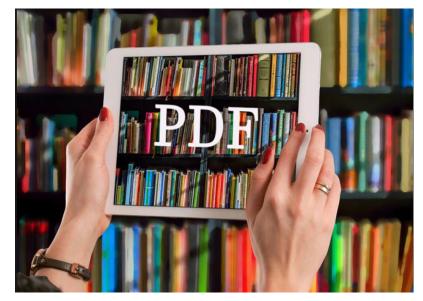






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Books

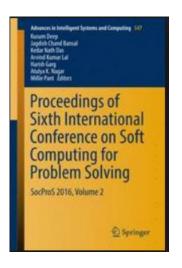


Conference Proceedings

Abstract

References

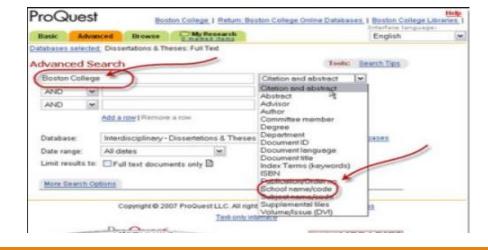
Keywords



RECall: A Scheduling System and Question Answering System with User Knowledge Base on a Mobile Application for Remembering and Recovering



Dissertations



- An in-depth examination of the significant material in books, journals and other sources relating to your topic.
- Aims to explore what is already known on the topic and to introduce the main thinkers/writers in the area.

- > Helps you and your readers to acquire an understanding of your topic
- > Sets the scene for your research, placing your research question in context
- > Usually presented at the beginning of a thesis, after the introduction, and generally takes up about a third to a half of the word allocation of the thesis

- In short theses, this will probably be just one chapter, but in longer theses, the literature review runs to two, or even three chapters.
- Helps you and your readers to acquire an understanding of your topic, of what has already been done on it, how it has been researched, and what the key issues are

- You need to show that you have understood the main theories in the subject area and how they have been applied and developed, as well as the main criticisms that have been made on the topic.
- Therefore, a part of your academic development-of becoming an expert on your topic.

Research Process

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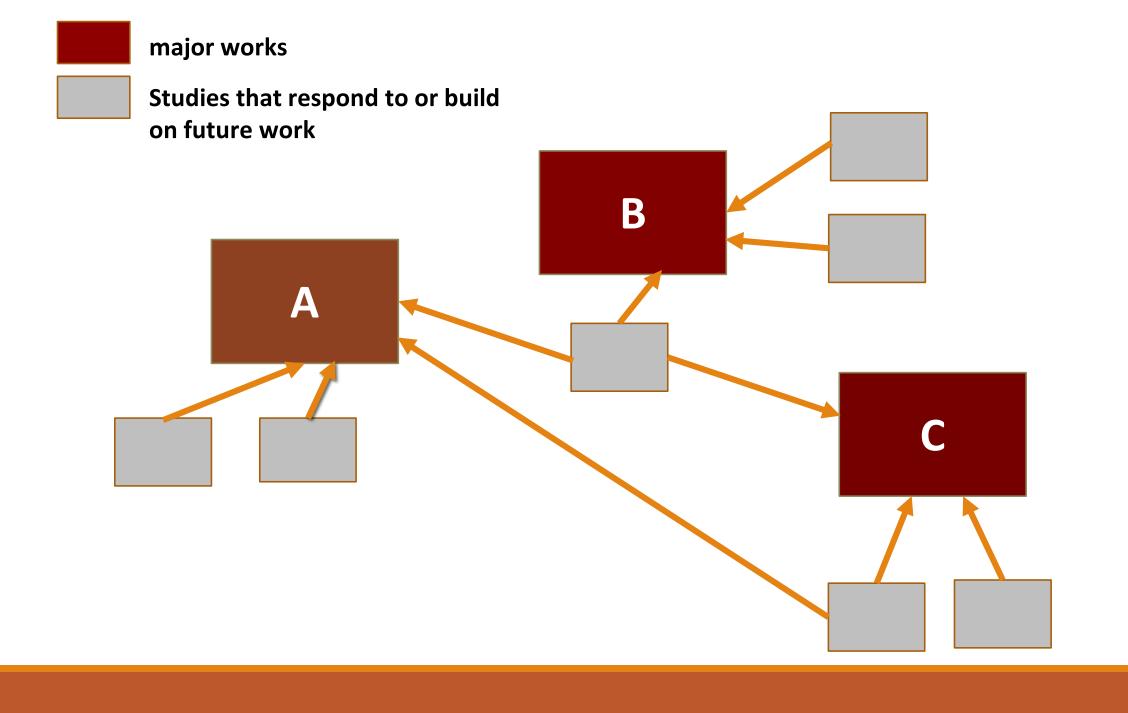
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Understand topic

Develop your own ideas

Demonstrate knowledge

Literature Review



Not a linear process

Rather, it is a backwards-and-forwards process between your reading and writing

You read other people's work, and you write your evaluation of it, and discuss how it can help you to develop your research question

The four main functions of a literature review:

- 1. It demonstrates the underlying assumptions behind the general research questions
- It should demonstrate the stance of the researcher, and the values he/she brings to the research.
- 2. It demonstrates that the researcher is knowledgeable about related research and theory

- 3. It shows that the researcher has identified some gaps in existing work on the topic, or has singled out some element of existing work that you would like to develop or build on
- It demonstrates that the proposed study will thus fill a demonstrated need.
- 4. It helps you refine and redefine the research questions, although the detail of this may not always be recorded in the review.

The main processes involved in a literature review

- > Finds out what is known about a topic
- Critically evaluates what is known
- Examines similar work that address the issues you are addressing
- Identifies gaps in what is known and shows how your work fills those gaps

- Identifies elements that you would like to build on, and discusses how you propose to do so and why
- Explains why your research is worth doing.

Advancements

.. the researchers/scientists that gave the first breakthroughs in nanotechnology ... and then came this next set of studies this next set of researchers who gave us the next breakthrough of nanotechnology and then this one --- and now here we are today --- and that's where your paper begins nanotechnology breakthrough advancements....

Geographical

...in the Near East, here are the research studies and the reports about slave trade.....and that is what the past people have said about the modern-day slave trade in Europe, and in Asia while in euro Asia

Theme

When to use: When explaining key themes or issues relevant to the topic

A literature review of 31 relevant articles published between January 1999 and March 2004 identified 12 categories of neighborhood characteristics relevant to maternal and child health: income/wealth, employment, family structure, population composition, housing, mobility, education, occupation, social resources, violence and crime, deviant behavior and physical conditions.

[Example adapted from Rajaratnam, J. K., Burke, J. G., & Q'campo, P. (2006). Maternal and child health and neighborhood context: the selection and construction of area-level variables. Health & place, 12(4), 547-556.]

Methodology (also called Methodology review)

When to use: When discussing interdisciplinary approaches to a topic or when discussing a number of studies with a different approach.

In dentistry, fluorescent imaging been used for many applications revealing a variety of information about bonded restorations. This review evaluates the different methods used in this area with the intent of determining if standardized methodologies exist.

[Example adapted from: Paulo, H. D., Pereira, J. C., Svizero, N. R., Rueggeberg, F. A., & Pashley, D. H. (2006). Use of fluorescent compounds in assessing bonded resin-based restorations: a literature review. Journal of dentistry, 34(9), 623-634.]

Chronology

When to use: When historical changes are central to explaining the topic.

A literature review is presented on the evolution of water pollution management and its impact on land pollution from 1900 to 2000 within a hypothesis of whether we could have done more, sooner. Stream pollution science in the context of the fundamental sanitary engineering concepts of reasonable use and assimilative capacity is examined in light of evolving regulatory frameworks from the early 1900s, when regulation standards were mostly lacking, to the zero discharge goals and comprehensive federal command/control regulations of the late 20th century.

[Example adapted from Shifrin, N. S. (2005). Pollution management in the twentieth century. Journal of Environmental Engineering, 131(5), 676-691.]

One final note:

The literature review should be **coherent**, rounded and have a sense of wholeness. It should have a satisfactory beginning, middle and end and should make links between different authors, concepts and theoretical stances.

Coherance

The concepts of coherence and wholeness, as distinct from totality, are important to guide the overall thesis. No thesis can do everything; it is simply a link in the chain of knowledge. You have to construct it in a coherent manner so that it can stand by itself. At the same time you should be aware that your research cannot cover the total field. It is connected to past and future studies.

Source Credits

Doing a Literature Review by Anne B. Ryan

http://mural.maynoothuniversity.ie/873/1/doing_a_review_of_liter ature.pdf

Writing a Literature Review by Allyson Skene.

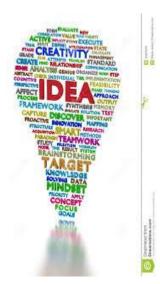
https://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/twc/sites/utsc.utoronto.ca.twc/files/resource-files/LitReview.pdf

Workshop

Select four, or at most five, of the most important pieces of literature relevant to your topic/questions.

Make notes on each one, in response to the following questions:

- 1. What theoretical stance does the author take?
- 3. How adequate are the author's for advancing your interest and questions?
- 4. What questions or gaps can you see, which this piece does not address?
- 5. What interesting ideas or approaches does it contain, on which you could build, or which you could take further?
- 6. How does this piece further your ideas and research questions?
- Write up these notes into a short literature review.



Do provide a summary of YOUR findings from the literature review. Explain what your analysis of the material leads you to conclude about the overall state of the literature, what it provides and where it is lacking. You can also provide suggestions for future research or explain how your future research will fill the gaps in the existing body of work on that topic.