Assignment: Literature Review and Research Design Synthesis in Cybersecurity

1. Overview

The purpose of this assignment is to develop your ability to search, evaluate, and synthesize existing research on a specific topic related to cyber security field. A Literature Review requires you to organize research by themes, debates; and research design and methodology, showing how various studies relate to one another.

2. Assignment Objectives

By completing this assignment, you will:

- Demonstrate mastery of library databases and Boolean search logic.
- Critically evaluate the methodology and findings of existing research.
- Synthesize complex information into an organized, thematic narrative.
- Learn how current studies have handled methodological rigor and design issues.
- Identify "Research Gaps" that justify future investigation.

3. Detailed Requirements

- **Topic Selection:** Choose a focused topic and research question within *cyber security field*.
- **Source Count:** Minimum of **5** *peer-reviewed journal articles*. You may include conference or technical reports if relevant.
- **Recency:** the sources must be published within *the last 5 years* .

The document must include the following criteria and sections:

Section/criteria	Weight	Description
Introduction	2	Define the topic and its importance, establish the scope, and justify your selection of the topic .
Search Strategy	2	A brief paragraph detailing the databases used (e.g., Google Scholar, IEEE Xplore , ScienceDirect … etc) , Inclusion/Exclusion Criteria and the keywords/Boolean operators employed.
Thematic Body	2	Organized by themes, concepts and study design. Compare and contrast different theories, frameworks and perspectives. Use Synthesis Matrix.
Design and methodology	5	Identify the nature of research, research paradigm, selected methodology (quantitative, qualitative or mix methods). Compare data collection and measurement tools. Demonstrate the credibility , generality , validity and reliability issues and criteria in each study.
Critical Appraisal	2	Identify strengths, weaknesses, and results in the literature.
Gaps Identification	2	Summarize the "state of the art" and explicitly state the research gap your study would fill. Provide the limitations of the current studies.
Conclusion	2	Summarize the current state of knowledge and provide statements regarding the future of this field.
Overall	3	Overall structure, originality of the documents, readability, consistency and language.

* total marks=20

4. Formatting and Submission Standards

- Length: 2,000 – 2,500 words (excluding Reference List).
- Document Style: Double-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font.
- Citation Style: Any style is acceptable. In-text citations and a full Reference List are mandatory.
- File Format: Submit as a .docx or .pdf file via Blackboard.

Good Luck