

STP601 Week9 Literature Review Note

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A literature review on social science is similar but has different perspective with science & engineering literatures. In S&T, we recall the theoretical background and methodologies from the literature review, in which supports thesis and experiments. On the other hand, qualitative literature review is to understand knowledge, vocabulary, and theories (Integration), and identify central issues on specific topic, but also critically interpret the historical research. Literature reviews can be classified according to five characteristics: focus, goal, perspective, coverage, organization, and audience.

The article kindly suggests step-by-step process on literature review. 1. Problem formulation, 2. Data collection, 3. Data evaluation, 4. Analysis and interpretation, 5. Public presentation. These processes are also the process of social science studies, so it implies every step of research project require literature review, and the expectation differs at each step. The section where literature review plays an important role is expected to be problem formulation and data collection period. A researcher would conduct data integration and generalization from the literature review, and conduct methodology to explain their own research.

The meta-analytic review is a useful technique to collect a representative or comprehensive sample of articles, and code those articles according to a number of aspects, and find a common metric to examine. However, sometimes the qualitative literature doesn't seem to have explicit quantitative metrics. Also, quantitative analysis sometimes suggests various outcomes on the research topic, for example on future market research. The selection of representative research tends to be affected by perspective and focus of a researcher,

There are several metrics to evaluate literature review, such as five categorized rubrics by Boote(2005): coverage, synthesis, methodology, significance, and rhetoric. The literature review is a powerful method to collect secondary data, and to formulate research perspective prospectus.

Research Questions

1. How can we define meta-analysis effect metrics on qualitative literatures? Is there a way to quantify the depth and coverages of the literatures? If there are various dissents

in the literatures, which research conclusion should be adopted and used in the study?

Reference

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2. Randolph, J. (2009). 'A Guide to Writing the Dissertation Literature Review', *Practical Assessment, Research, and Evaluation*: Vol. 14, Article 13.
3. Boote, D. N., & Beile, P. (2005). 'Scholars before researchers: On the centrality of the dissertation literature review in research preparation. *Educational Researcher*', 34(6), 3-15.